

MEMOIRS

OF THE

CELEBRATED

Miss Fanny Murray

The SECOND EDITION.



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W. Musgrave!



P R E F A C E.

AS many are inclined to believe, that the principal, if not all the characters delineated in performances of this kind, are drawn for those who may chance to resemble them in some particular feature, I think it necessary to inform the Reader, that whatever in-

a tentional

iv P R E F A C E.

tentional similitude may be traced between these ideal and any real personages, it is only founded in imagination. Indeed, my very bookseller, tho' so well acquainted with illusions of this kind, went so far as to believe I really intended by these Memoirs, the Adventures of Miss Fanny M-rr-y ; nay, what is still more amazing, after having perused the work, he was not entirely convinced of his mistake.

It is true I have been told,
that there are passages in this
piece,

P R E F A C E. v

piece, which are not very different from some part of that lady's life ; and that many of her admirers may be considered equally censurable with those I have satirized ; but very little reflection will inform any considerate person, (and it is for such only I write) that circumstances may be almost minutely parallel, and personages semblant to a tittle, without their being the same. ‘ But then, ‘ Sir, (said he) the celebrated ‘ Miss *Fanny* is what corroborates the suspicion ;’ as if none but Miss R-dm-n could

vi P R E F A C E.

be celebrated, or no other woman's name Fanny.

It were needless to add any thing more, to convince the reader of my intentions in amusing the public with this novel ; or to persuade him, that neither he, or any of his cotemporaries, need be under the least apprehensions of finding their character drawn, at length, or in miniature, in the following sheets.



The EDITOR.

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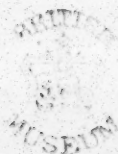
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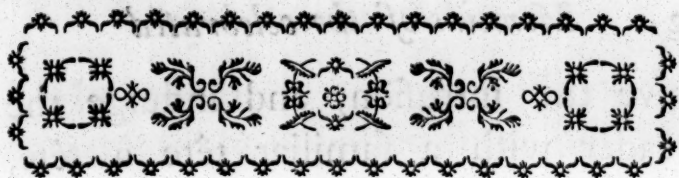
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MEMOIRS




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OF THE CELEBRATED

Miss Fanny M———.

CHAP. I.

*Which should be read by every one
who loves little ceremony at an in-
troduction to a fine woman.*

 O bring a heroine upon the
theatre of life without ce-
remony, is almost as uncus-
tomary, as introducing a new hero
upon the real stage, without a pro-
logue : but Miss Fanny possesses so
great a share of good nature, that I
am induced to believe, she will for-
give

give the intrusion, and indulge the reader with a familiar tête à tête, without many compliments.

The birth of Miss Fanny was attended with no extraordinary phenomenon. I cannot learn that Venus's doves, in imitation of Alexander's eagles, lit upon her mother's chamber window, though they presaged only his conquering of Europe and Asia; and she vanquishes the hearts of all mankind. There was not so much as an earthquake, or an extraordinary meteor to apprise the world of her birth; though the whole female sex still tremble at her conquests, and the male all think her the prognosticated blazing-star of this period. But the wife of a musician at Bath brought forth at one labour three children, two girls and one boy, of whom Fanny was the only surviving child three days after.

Her education was such as might be reasonably expected from her parents circumstances, which were very indifferent, and having lost at the age of twelve both her father and mother, she commenced a retail merchant of nose-gays and ~~Bath~~ rings at the rooms.

In this situation, she was first taken notice of by the celebrated Jack ^{Spencer} of libertine memory, and he soon found means to seduce that innocence, which might have then been corrupted, with less powers than he used to effect his intent.

A professed rake is a detestable animal ; his prey is youth, chastity and credulity, and for these he gives infamy, disease, and misery. His appetites are palled with enjoyment, and, like the satiate glutton, has more pleasure in swallowing the morsels, to pre-

vent the rest of the guests partaking of the repast, than in relishing of the viands. The one piques himself more upon having dined off twenty turtles in a season, than in having saved as many starved wretches from perishing, by the superfluities of his table ; and the other, of having debauched more virgins than his abilities would let him possess ; or his fortune, though ever so great, enable him to support.

Our present debauchee had peculiarities, even in his excesses, that were picturesque, which demonstrated a genius much superior to the fault, if his talents had been diverted. Tho' Jack ^{Spencer} *** was a proverbial rake, he wanted not parts ; but unhappily for himself they were misapplied. Lewdness and debauchery were the only sciences that he more than grazed the surface of ; in these he was a great adept :

adept : he refined venery, and converted the sot to the bon vivant.

This accomplished rake was the first seducer of our heroine; scarce a girl, she was converted into a woman. Accustomed to variety, all Fanny's youth and budding charms could fix him but for a short time. Experience at her age must have been inspiration, of which I have no intimation. No wonder, then, she lost those moments (to her those precious moments) in which her whole stock of virtue was exhausted, without gaining any future provision. In fine, a vender of nose-gays he found her, and such he left her, after a few weeks enjoyment.

In this commerce she was favoured by Mr. Easy,^x who was originally a man of tolerable fortune, and had gained by his good address and gen-

B 3

teel

x Mr. Nash

teel behaviour the regard of all the people of fashion that resorted to Bath, inasmuch that he had been for some years constituted *Master* of the *Ceremonies*. In this capacity he had lived a very luxurious life, which had near exhausted his finances; but by his application to the tables, and the presents he received, added to the pension which was allowed him, he found means to keep up that appearance which he had long supported.

Fanny's person, which already began to testify marks of womanhood, was extremely beautiful; her face a perfect oval, with eyes that conversed love, and every other feature in agreeable symmetry. Her dimpled cheek alone might have captivated, if a smile that gave it existence, did not display such other charms as shared the conquest. Her teeth regular, small, and per-

perfectly white, coral lips and chestnut hair, soon attracted the eyes of every one ; and though her situation made her appear once more an easy prize, she had now gained prudence enough to act with a becoming reserve to all.

However, whether gratitude inspired her, the great address of Mr. Easy conquered her coldness, or his extensive power dazzled her ambition, we will not pretend to say ; but it was her lot not to be inexorable to the monarch of *Both*, who soon shifted the scene, and Fanny was no longer one of Flora's train.

She was now at the age of fourteen, gay, volatile, handsome ; — no wonder Easy found great felicity in her company ; no wonder he was lavish in his presents. She dressed equal to any
woman

woman at B—h, and perhaps looked as well. It is true she was but of the middle size, and though inclined to be plump, she had delicacy enough in her shape to make it agreeable, and beauty enough in her face, to render her at once the grand object of the men's affections, and the women's envy.

C H A P. II.

Sir Thomas Fligthy's attack upon Miss Fanny on the highway, in which she heroically defends herself, till the arrival of a reinforcement, when the allied army gain a complete victory over the enemy.

EASY had much difficulty to keep her to himself; nor was it surprizing, when it is considered how many artifices were used to inveigle

veigle her away. Sir Thomas Flighty had long entertained an eager passion for her; nay, he had gone so far as to offer her a settlement of three hundred a year for life. What will not our passions excite us to? What will not lust, that masquerade of love, when every other inclination is absorbed in it? Her answer was peremptory: 'To her patron she owed every thing; to him she was devoted.'

This is a rare instance of gratitude in a girl of fourteen, elevated far beyond her former state, courted by a circle of admirers, who would have cut each other's throat, with pleasure, to have only had the chance of being the surviving man, were he sure to have been the happy one.

All persuasives were ineffectual, and Sir Thomas's flame was increased
by

by her perseverance. Easy had proposed a tête à tête party for the next day ; and to avoid being pestered by her admirers, they were to set out in a post chaise early in the morning. Sir Thomas gained intelligence of this, and at five o'clock sent a post chaise as coming from Easy, at whose lodgings she was to call. She got into it without any apprehensions, as her servants, who had given information of the intended party had been bribed by Sir Thomas for that purpose ; and she was near half a mile out of the city, before she discovered where she was. When she called to the postillion to enquire whither he was going, he replied, Mr. Easy was at an inn about a mile off, where he had ordered the chaise. She now began to suspect some treachery, but it was in vain to expostulate, for he continued driving, without attending to

to any thing she might say, till they met with Sir Thomas on horse-back, with two servants behind; upon which he alighted, and came into the chaise, saying, ‘ My dear Fanny, you see what
‘ stratagems you oblige me to use.
‘ This is contrary to my inclination;
‘ but when no other means can be
‘ devised, a man so fond as me can’t
‘ help executing every plan that offers
‘ the least dawn of hope.’

‘ Sir,’ said Fanny, ‘ I despise you
‘ now, more than ever I hated you.
‘ Your low artifice is unbecoming a
‘ gentleman; and nothing but a vil-
‘ lain in his heart could suggest such
‘ an infamous project. If you think to
‘ succeed this way, you are greatly
‘ mistaken, for the last drop of my
‘ blood shall be spilt in opposing any
‘ designs that you may think of ac-
‘ complishing.’

‘ My

‘ My dear Fanny,’ replied Sir Thomas, ‘ I am not surpris’d at your
‘ resentment; it is just. I should dis-
‘ like you if you were not to testify
‘ it. But it is time that reason and
‘ prudence should take place of pas-
‘ sion and choler. Let us state the
‘ case without prejudice. You have
‘ devoted yourself to an old fellow
‘ that is an antidote to desire, who,
‘ it’s true, supports you for the pre-
‘ sent, but who with the first run of
‘ ill-luck will not only cast you off,
‘ and leave you to the wide world,
‘ but even your money, trinkets, nay,
‘ very cloaths, may be applied to the
‘ payment of some debt of honour;
‘ and when you are naked in the
‘ street, you may repent having re-
‘ jected my proposals. Besides, if
‘ Lord M—— were to die to mor-
‘ row, how much better than a beg-
‘ gar would he be? Three hundred
a year

‘ a year certain, and a healthy young
‘ fellow, who has love sufficient to
‘ make you happy, and courage
‘ enough to protect you, should surely
‘ more than counterbalance Mr. Easy,
‘ and his politeness.’

Miss Fanny entered very little into the merits of this argument, but only observed, ‘ it was time enough to accept of his proposals, when Mr. Easy should behave to her in a manner to give her reason for that step ; but that as long as his kindness continued, she should think herself the most ungrateful, the most abandoned of her sex, to fly into the arms of another, only with a lucrative view.’

They had got thus far in their dispute, and not much farther on their journey, when Mr. Easy came riding full gallop up to the chaise, and told

C

the

the postillion not to go another pace, if he valued his life.

It seems Mr. Easy having sent his post-chaise for Fanny at half an hour after five, it returned with the news, that she had gone in another some time before. This instantly roused his jealousy and resentment, and having sent all over the city to enquire what post-chaises had set out that morning, he learnt only one for London. Having ordered his horses immediately, and taken his pistols, he did not hesitate long what rout to take, and overtook Sir Thomas and Miss Fanny in the above situation, about seven miles from B—h.

Fanny burst into tears upon the sight of Mr. Easy, while he told Sir Thomas that he must immediately alight, or else the consequences would
be

be fatal. At the same time drawing a pistol from his housings, he pointed it at the postillion, who had began to move upon the knight's bidding him drive on. Sir Thomas told Mr. Easy, that he would at another time give him any satisfaction he might require, but that he would not at present be interrupted ; and taking a pistol out of his pocket said to the postillion ; ‘ G—d, if you don't drive on, I'll “shoot you through the head.” At that instant Easy pointed his at the postillion, saying, he was a dead man if he stirred an inch.

In this dilemma the postillion got off his horse, and run away, while the knight fired at him and grazed one of his boots. The fellow, frightened with the explosion, and finding the ball touch his boot, imagined he was hurt, and before he got ten

C 2

yards

yards fell down in a swoon. Every one thought he was killed, and Miss Fanny was so much affected that they could scarce prevent her fainting. Upon examining the postilion, they found his boot had received all the wound that was given; and Mr. Easy's man having been bred a barber, he let him blood, which soon brought him to himself. In the mean while Sir Thomas ordered his servant who was on horseback to get up and drive the chaise, and tie his horse behind; but Mr. Easy possessed himself of that post, and pistol in hand prevented the servant's getting up.

Many altercations ensued in this situation; Mr. Easy insisting upon Fanny's being restored, and Sir Thomas persisting in the continuance of his journey with the lady. At length the knight finding the impracticableness

ness of executing his scheme, without some further stratagem, proposed that they should all go to the next inn upon the road to breakfast, and there settle the dispute. Mr. Easy continued strenuous in having her back to B—h, without stopping any where, but Sir Thomas observing it would be impossible to convey her there, without her riding behind him, as he was resolved to continue his journey to London, Mr. Easy consented going to the first inn, in order to procure a vehicle.

Being arrived there, the dispute began again ; and Mr. Easy having in his heat called Sir Thomas a liar, they retired to a field behind the house, where they discharged their pistols, by which the knight was wounded in the thigh. This affair could not fail alarming the neighbourhood, and a

C 3

surgeon

surgeon was at the place of action as soon as the first of the mob. Upon examining the wound, it was found but slight, and the ball was easily extracted: but it being judged expedient for Sir Thomas not to stir till it was healed, Mr. Easy, after breakfast, took a French leave, and returned to B—h with his dear Fanny.

C H A P. III.

Which furnishes some useful observations, and may be read, without loss of time, by any lady under forty, who has the least thoughts of the masculine part of the creation.

THERE is scarce a female who is crooked, or disfigured with the small-pox, but casts out secret imprecations upon her nurse or parents, for not having paid more regard to
her

her shape or face, every time a looking glass comes in her way : but did she consider the danger a pretty woman runs of being ruined, she would offer up her prayers, and thank Providence for having secured her from all attempts upon her honour. A fine face has been the perdition of many a woman, and yet is coveted by all. There is a certain vanity which the sex possess, that flatters them, the men dare not be so presumptuous, as to make a dishonourable attack upon so fine a creature. Experience tells them the contrary every day, and yet they continue blinded with their imaginary security.

A fine woman is the most amiable thing in the whole creation, but a virtuous one is the most desirable. We love the one, we adore the other. No woman of common sense can covet
being

being vicious, merely for the sake of being so, when the balance is so much in favour of virtue: but the misfortune is, they are taught to believe all virtue is centered in chastity; and as long as they maintain that unfullied, they think themselves the most virtuous of their sex. But let them consider that chastity is but a subordinate virtue, and that even this may be unexpectedly lost, when they permit themselves the indulgence of other vices, which, though represented to them as of no immediate fatal consequence, generally terminate in the same point as lust. Vanity, envy, malice, jealousy, revenge, and avarice, are all auxiliaries to incontinence, and those that retain any of these in their service, must expect, sooner or later, to have the small fortress of chastity taken by surprise or treachery.

Upon

Upon Fanny's return to her lodging, she found in her chamber a lady dressing herself at her toilet ; for, as the servants did not expect her return for some time, this lady had gained permission of them to make use of *Miss* Fanny's apartments during her absence. The lady, as soon as she perceived Fanny, was in the utmost confusion, not knowing what apology to make ; whilst the servants, who had not time to acquaint the lady with their mistress's return, were more confounded than the lady : but Fanny having with her usual composure desired her not to disturb herself, went into the dining-room, whilst she finished her dressing. This might have given both the lady and the servants an opportunity of framing some excuse, but there were no tidings of the lady, till Fanny received the following letter from her.

“ MADAM,

“ MADAM,

“ **T**H E extraordinary and unac-
 “ countable situation you found
 “ me in, must certainly have much
 “ astonished you ; the more, as I have
 “ not yet made any apology for it :
 “ but if you will permit me to wait
 “ upon you this afternoon, I will en-
 “ deavour to prevent any blame fall-
 “ ing on your servants upon my ac-
 “ count.

“ I am, Madam, &c.”

The lady waited upon Fanny accordingly, and after some few compliments, she desired to inform her how she came to be at B—h, and was found the day before in the situation described, which Fanny consenting to, she gave the following narration.

My

“ My father is a baronet of an ancient family in Wales, who gave me a genteel education, and at the age of sixteen, a man of great fortune, whom I never saw in my life, was fixed upon for my husband. All my representations of my disinclination to enter yet into the holy state of matrimony; all my remonstrances, that I could never love a man I was utterly a stranger to, were in vain: my father, who regarded the honour of his family more than my happiness, told me, whilst I upon my knees supplicated the deferring of the ceremony for a few days, ‘ It is in vain, ‘ girl, pretending to oppose my resolution; the day is fixed for your nuptials, with a man of honour and family, who has the best estate in Brecknockshire. He will make you a good husband, if you prove a dutiful

‘ful wife.’ Having said this, he turned from me, and left me weeping upon the floor. My mother entered the room by another door, and asked what ailed me. I replied, my grief upon being separated from so good, so kind a parent, when I was but yet a child, to be wedded to a man I had never seen. ‘Pho! Pho!’ ‘child,’ said she, ‘these things happen every day—you are old enough for a husband, I warrant you.’

Thus situated, the day of my nuptials came, and a man old enough to be my grandfather, was introduced to me as a bridegroom. All my passions were stagnated, or rather their quick revolution prevented any demonstrating their effects: however, indignation at length gained the ascendant; it rose to such a height I did
not

not receive him with common complaisance. But let me no longer dwell upon that melancholy day, which presents me with all my complicated misery at one view. Imagine me the most wretched of my sex; tied to age and infirmity, avarice and jealousy.

I brought him twenty thousand pounds, and he did not allow me necessaries: every man under fifty, that looked at me, was a rival.

C H A P. IV.

Continuation of the lady's history, which points out the fatal effects of gaming, and the caution that should be used in creating any debts upon that account; with the artifices of a jealous husband, and a pretended lover.

THUS fettered did I drag on four whole years of an unhappy life, and for the first time did he propose me some recreation. ‘My dear,’ said he, ‘should not you like to go down to B—h this season? its my belief the waters would dissipate that melancholy that hangs upon you.’ I was charmed with his kindness, and began to entertain some regard for a man, that I had ever yet looked upon as my persecutor. His generosity was equal to his good nature,

nature, for he presented me with a hundred pound bill to bear my expences, and told me he would furnish me with more if I wanted it. I needed not many arguments to persuade me to take this journey, if only his absence had been the incentive; but I also flattered myself with some pleasure from the agreeableness of the place and its novelty, and was also in hopes the waters might prove as salutary as he said.

In a word I came to B—h, and passed ten days in greater comfort than any these five years have produced. At the end of that time, a gentleman addressed himself to me, enquired after my father's health, and entertained me with many particulars of the family; to whom I behaved with all the politeness I was mistress of.

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The next day he proposed a party at piquet—and in a few hours I won a hundred and twenty guineas of him.

He did not pay me till next day, when he waited upon me with it, and asked me if I were disposed to renew the party. The sight of so much money intoxicated me, and the desire of gain, and of being able to get out of my husband's niggardly clutches, when I should have occasion for the bagatelles of a woman's dress, so far prevailed over me, that, without the thoughts of my former success, I should have been induced to have given him his revenge.

Cards were called for, from which we did not stir till midnight: the fore part of the evening furnished a variety of success; but at last I lost every

every game, and my betts being doubled with my ill luck, I was indebted to him four hundred pounds. He very politely told me, he desired I might not put myself to any inconvenience ; and as, perhaps, I might want cash, he would not then accept of any part of the money. This genteel behaviour gained upon me vastly, and though I lost four hundred pounds, I could not help looking upon myself as a hundred and twenty guineas in pocket, imagining the next night I might retrieve my ill fortune.

But the next evening returned with my bad luck, and instead of regaining what I had lost, I doubled it ; for which I gave him a note, without reflecting upon the impracticableness of my acquitting it, and without informing my husband, whom I could

not imagine would condescend to such an indulgence.

From this moment the family friend commenced a lover, and the more I opposed his passion, and remonstrated my detestation of a man, who could suppose me unfaithful to my conjugal vow, the more did he persevere in soliciting my favours. My indignation kept pace with his pretended passion, and I at length gave him such a rebuff, that his absence occasioned me great uneasiness, on account of the note, which I was apprehensive he might pay away in revenge for my unkindness ; when I received the following letter.

“ MADAM,

“ **I**T is not my disposition to give
“ the least uneasiness to any part of
“ your sex ; so far from it, my greatest
“ felicity

“felicity would be in making them
“all, and more particularly yourself,
“happy.——But it is my misfor-
“tune to be detested by you.

“You know, Madam, I have it in
“my power to avenge myself of your
“unkind treatment. If you will make
“me the happiest man on earth to-
“night, I will destroy the note before
“your face.——If I receive no an-
“swer, I shall negotiate it to-mor-
“row.”

This letter threw me into the great-
est consternation:—the more I re-
flected, the more I was distracted.—
I saw inevitable destruction on the one
hand; on the other the sacrifice of
my honour. Thus was I ruminating,
when he knocked at my door, and
without enquiring whether or no
I was

I was *visible*, came in. This effrontry in a man who hitherto had received nothing but marks of my indignation, staggered me more than all his former conduct.

He renewed his sollicitations with a seeming conviction of success and authority. He observed, it were needless in him to assure me of his secrecy, since the knowledge of the affair must inevitably terminate in his own ruin; and that he was apprehensive, and not without reason, that my husband would certainly turn me out of doors, as soon as the note should be presented to him for payment.

In this dilemma, in this most unhappy situation, is it surprising that a woman, a frail weak woman, should prefer secret dishonour to immediate destruc-

destruction — admit the careffes of a man genteel, young, and generous — instead of an old debilitated miser whom I detested? In short, one debt of honour was acquitted at the price of my whole stock.

He left me early in the morning to meditate upon the sacrifice I had made, and in the midst of my reveries, I espied a paper which he had dropt out of his pocket, and which upon perusing proved a letter, wrote by my husband, conceived pretty nearly as follows :

“ S I R,

“ **T**H E progress you have already
“ made in this affair, gives me
“ great satisfaction, and as a proof
“ thereof, I here inclose you a bill
“ upon Mr. *** for a hundred pounds,
“ payable

“ payable at sight. I am glad to hear
“ you have bribed her servants ; that
“ will be a means of soon bringing a
“ divorce to bear. You must push the
“ point as fast as you can, as her fa-
“ ther is taken ill, and proposes send-
“ ing for her, which may frustrate
“ our plan.

“ I am, &c.”

What was my astonishment at the discovery of this scene of villainy, you may more easily imagine, than I can express.—Horror—grief—remorse—detestation ! moved me by turns.

In the midst of this anguish, a messenger from my truly perfidious lover waited upon me, to enquire if he had dropt no paper in his visit ? At another time I should have had reflexion enough to have retained the letter,

letter, and by that means demonstrated his infamy to the world. But when you consider what a disordered state my mind must have then been in, you will not be astonished at my inconsiderate conduct, in returning him my husband's *honest* epistle.

In fine, my husband sued for a divorce, which he obtained, and my father will not see me, or give me any assistance. These very apartments I made so free with were in my occupation ; but since my distresses I have been obliged to quit them for a garret in the same house ; and being informed by your servants, you would not return this week, I took the liberty of dressing myself in your chamber.—I hope you will excuse my impertinence, and not blame your servants for the intrusion.”

Miss

Miss Fanny was greatly affected at her misfortunes, forced her to accept of a twenty pound note, and promised her servants should not receive any marks of her disapprobation upon account of the lady, whom she solicited to make free with her apartments whenever she should have occasion for them. But having informed her of the imposition they were privy to the day before, she immediately discarded them all.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

Fanny's intimacy with the lady whose narrative is given in the preceding chapters, and its consequences. Her further conduct during her residence at B—h, and the cause of her quitting it, and setting out for London.

THE agreeable conversation and genteel behaviour of the lady, who was so unexpectedly surprised in Miss Fanny's apartments, (and whom we shall henceforward call Mrs. Stevens) gained so much upon our heroine, that this unforeseen acquaintance soon cemented the strictest intimacy. Fanny could not live an hour without Mrs. Stevens, who seemed equally sedulous to prevent any separation. Fanny's situation in life debarred her from an intercourse with the
E elevated

elevated part of her sex, which she so much envied : and Mrs. Stevens's faux-pas, and distressed circumstances, were equally obstacles to the continuance of that acquaintance, which her birth, fortune, education and behaviour so justly entitled her to. Similar misfortunes often produce mutual friendship : adversity is the knot of amity : prosperity and death are both furnished with its scythe.

Mrs. Stevens was no longer the garret-
teer we found her in the foregoing chapter : an apartment upon the same floor with Fanny's was provided for her ; and our heroine's cloaths were as much used by Mrs. Stevens as by herself.

With this intimate Fanny had an opportunity of going in public, where
a single

a single woman could not find access : and though their reputations might be sullied so as to prevent any immediate intercourse with the polite female world, the men, who examine not women's characters with that malignant eye which their sex never fail to use, soon descried that beauty in Mrs. Stevens, which had been so long sequestered from the public eye ; and she was pronounced Fanny's only rival.

However, the train of our heroine's admirers was not apparently diminished. If Sir Thomas Flighty was gone to town for better advice, Lord Ramble supplied his place, and would have went as great lengths to demonstrate his passion. His picture set in diamonds in a bracelet, was the first token of his flame. Unfortunately it

fell into Mr. Easy's hands, whose jealousy was soon roused, but who had prudence enough to let Fanny remain ignorant of the discovery.

Whether Fanny began to incline towards Sir Thomas Flighty's argument, which he used in the post-chaise ; or whether Mr. Easy's complaisance to Mrs. Stevens had rendered her gallant less agreeable, it is difficult to determine ; but the encouragement Fanny gave to Lord Ramble, notwithstanding all Easy's dissimulation, made a visible change in his behaviour. His visits were less frequent and shorter : he seldom passed a night with her, and when he did, he retired as soon as it was light. This could not fail piquing Fanny's pride ; and as the women seldom let neglect go unrevengeed, Lord Ramble found her less obdurate every time he saw her.

Easy,

Easy, who had his emissaries, was informed of every appointment Fanny made with my lord, and in proportion to their number his visits decreased.—A week sometimes passed without Easy's appearance at Fanny's lodgings. She was ripe for revolt, when Easy sent her a billet, which she had wrote to Lord Ramble, and which had fallen into his hands, with the following letter :

“ MADAM,

“ **I** Should have wrote an answer to
“ your inclosed billet sooner, if I
“ had not been inclined to convince
“ myself of the reality of your incli-
“ nations.

“ Inconstancy in a woman is so
“ very repugnant to every thing that
“ looks like love, that he must be a
E 3 “ fool

“ fool indeed, who, after the discovery,
“ can support an alliance with one,
“ that declares him, by her actions,
“ incapable of making good his en-
“ gagements.

“ It is time, Madam, to terminate
“ our intimacy, and resign you wholly
“ to Lord Ramble.

“ E A S Y.”

Fanny was somewhat affected with this letter at first, as it evinced his acquaintance of her intrigue : but when she found his attachment to Mrs. Stevens made a noise every where, she thought her intimacy with Lord Ramble opportunely occurred, to give credit to her being the first who broke the alliance with Mr. Easy ; and the opinion of the world supported her pride by this belief.

She

She immediately changed her lodgings, and Lord Ramble convinced her of those joys, which Mr. Easy had only made her imagine. The friendship between Fanny and Mrs. Stevens did not discontinue, she looking on this step in that lady as taken thro' necessity ; which there was much reason to believe, since Mr. Easy was old enough to have been her father, and she had so much exclaimed against antient husbands. Fanny still triumphed in her superior conquests ; and Mrs. Stevens, though her rival, gained some contempt by accepting her discarded lover, whose resentment rose to that pitch, that, if Lord Ramble had not been his particular patron, the effusion of some blood must have been the consequence.

Fanny,

Fanny, who improved every opportunity of instruction, had not lost by her acquaintance with Mrs. Stevens. All the rusticity of a nosegay girl, or a Bath-ring seller, was softened into that easy deportment, which is peculiar to those who move in the most elevated sphere, without that levity or audacity, which most women of her stamp construe into a degagé unconstrained behaviour. It is not at all surprising then, that she had by this time initiated herself into the company of all the men of quality; or that the demi-reps of fashion should submit to speak to her.

Easy was greatly mortified at the regard she obtained. He before had the vanity to imagine every politeness shewn her was upon his account: but when he was convinced her own superior

perior merit procured it, he was stung to the very soul at being rivalled in such an object. He would now with pleasure have recanted his letter, to have only had the appearance of being her sole enamorado. He would have been even glad to recover her at the price of his dear Mrs. Stevens, to whose charms he was far from being insensible. But Fanny would listen to no new overtures from him: she rejected them all with disdain. From this moment he commenced her declared enemy, and every ill office in his power he now did her, with as much satisfaction, as before he had been happy in serving her.

All his unkindness could not quench in Fanny's breast the embers of that gratitude, which shone with such superior lustre, when Sir Thomas Flighty
with

with all his art endeavoured to extinguish it. If she proved inconstant to him, his behaviour to her rival first roused her pride ; his coldness to her piqued her vanity ; and lord Ramble's person, title and fortune, secured the deserter from Easy's banner to his own service.

Easy's generosity was quite eclipsed by Lord Ramble's bounty — She not only outshone the most brilliant in beauty and dress, but also in retinue. — What in this life is not transitory ? — a sudden fever carried off Lord Ramble, and left Fanny without any provision. — Accustomed to live elegant, so she still continued, as long as her trinkets and other effects would produce the means.

Her pride would let her submit to no offers beneath what she had before
accepted ;

accepted ; or else that indigence which soon overtook her, would easily have been foiled. Easy now had an opportunity of triumphing in turn :—the monarch of B—h proved a tyrant to his abdicated mistress. She could find admittance no where. Her dress was soon a second barrier to her appearance in public ; and she resolved to remain no longer in a place, where, with her prosperity, she had lost all her acquaintance. She looked upon Sir Thomas Flighty still as her own. She could not conceive that such a revolution in her conduct, with respect to Easy, without his being the preferred object, could cool the inordinacy of Sir Thomas's flame : that her loss of Lord Ramble, her indigence, and applying to him as a last resource, would destroy all pretence to his being her choice. In short, she did not suggest

suggest that even six months absence, and a variety of mistresses, with all these circumstances against her, could render Sir Thomas a very philosopher in love.

A journey to London in a stage-coach would have appeared to Fanny, a few weeks before, as the most disagreeable adventure that could occur; but at present she looked upon it in a quite different light. Glad to muster the price of her conveyance, she packed up her all, and took a place in the stage.

C H A P. VI.

A travelling dish, without any force-meat ; cooked according to the rules of incident, and suited to all savoury palates.

W H E N the morning began to dawn, about four o'clock, for this was the middle of April, she was much surprised on being waked by an extraordinary jolt, to find herself stuffed in a coach between an old mealman and a young fellow, who, by his appearance, was a coxcomb : and facing her an officer, who approached his grand climacteric ; a middle aged decent looking woman, and a young girl. The jolt that had waked Fanny, had not operated so strongly upon any of her fellow-travellers, so that she had an opportunity of examining

F mining

mining their physiognomies ; and curiosity naturally leading her, who for the first time was in a stage-coach, to consider what sort of company she had got into. There was no great difficulty in defining that the officer was a subaltern, for his blue worsted stockings, and greasy red breeches, denoted him of inferior rank. The meal-man gave more proof than she required to her cloaths of his profession ; and she was considering the phiz of the gentleman upon her left hand, when he unexpectedly cried out, “ By G—d, I went
‘ with the cafter, and that was for
‘ E.’ What the jolt had not effected, this sudden exclamation accomplished ; and every one’s eyes, except the beau’s, were open in a moment, staring at each other, whilst he still continued profound in sleep. Not a word
had

had yet been said, the surprize of the exclamation not being got over, when a volley of oaths introduced, ‘ D—n my soul, Sir, I’ve lost every bett to night, and I won’t be cheated by such a scoundrel.’

The son of Mars could contain himself no longer ; but giving the fop a great push, waked him with, ‘ Sir, What do you mean ?—By G—d, I served in all queen Anne’s wars, and never was so affronted in my life. Sir, d—n me, I must have satisfaction ; so come out.’

The dormant speaking gentleman began to wipe his eyes, whilst the officer continued, ‘ No trifling, Sir ; I was at the battle of Ramillies, and have killed fifty in a minute that never affronted me half so much.

‘ — Z——ds, Sir, what do you
 ‘ mean ? ’ ‘ Mean, Sir ! (replied
 ‘ the fop) What the devil do you
 ‘ mean ? Where am I ? ’ —— ‘ In
 ‘ the stage-coach to London, (said
 ‘ the officer) affronting a gentleman,
 ‘ an officer, by G——d ; Sir, a man of
 ‘ honour, that never took an affront
 ‘ in all his born days.’ —— ‘ You
 ‘ are raving sure ; (answered the fop)
 ‘ how the devil could I affront you,
 ‘ when I have been asleep ’till you
 ‘ waked me, ever since we came from
 ‘ the inn ? ’ —— ‘ Z——ds, Sir,’
 (cried the officer) ‘ you called me
 ‘ scoundrel ; the company heard it ;
 ‘ and whether you were asleep or
 ‘ awake, I don’t care, I must have
 ‘ satisfaction.’

The veteran officer had already
 got up ; and drawing his sword,
 whilst

whilst the coachman stopped, thinking that something ailed the carriage, he profited of the opportunity to get out, and took the fop by the collar, telling him, that he must come out too, or else he would take him by the nose. The officer descended first, and brandishing his sword, made several lounges, crying, ‘ Here I have the ‘ scoundrel ; —there I shew day-light ‘ through the rascal.’ The fop having alighted, asked him what satisfaction he required. ‘ Fight me immediately,’ said the officer. ‘ With what ?’ asked the beau. ‘ With your sword, to be ‘ sure,’ replied the veteran.—‘ Here I ‘ am in position : hah ! hah !’ (loungeing at the same time) ‘ Why don’t you ‘ come on ?’ ‘ I have no sword,’ said ‘ the fop.—‘ Zounds Sir !’ cried the officer, ‘ do you trifle with me ? Why ‘ did not you say so at first ? this is tra-
F 3 ‘ velling

‘velling with plebeians ! a man of ho-
‘honour may be affronted, and be
‘obliged to take up with it for half an
‘hour.—Sir, I had rather travel with-
‘out my shirt, than without my sword.’
The fop got into the coach again,
telling him, the first inn they came to
would furnish them with swords and
pistols too, if there were occasion for
them.’ The honest mealman, after
they were defeated, expostulated with
the officer, saying, ‘As for his part,
‘he did not pretend to decide points
‘of honour; but if all duels were
‘fought with as little reason as this,
‘he begged pardon; but could not
‘believe your men of honour had one
‘grain more of sense than himself:
‘for Sir,’ (addressing himself to the
officer) ‘it is all a mistake from the
‘beginning to the end:—that gen-
‘tleman (pointing to the fop) was fast
‘asleep

‘asleep, and what he said was certainly in a dream.’—‘Z—ds, Sir,’ (replied the veteran) ‘what is that to me, without he will go to sleep again, and give me satisfaction in his dream?’ This unintended pleasantry had so good an effect, that it was with difficulty any of the company could refrain from laughing; for even the officer himself had almost brought his mouth to a smile, when the fop told him, ‘he had no objection against making him any reasonable satisfaction when *awake*, if he could prove he had given him any affront.’ These preliminaries being settled, and the beau being informed that he had called somebody scoundrel in his sleep, he was advised to recollect his dream. After some pause, he acquainted the company, ‘that he dreamt he was betting his last five pounds at the E. O. table,
and

‘ and a man wanted to cheat him ;
‘ but (continued he) I had no more
‘ thought of any one in this coach,
‘ than if I had been a thousand miles
‘ off. If I have given any offence to
‘ that gentleman, (meaning the officer)
‘ I ask his pardon.’ The red-coat
seemed satisfied with this, and only
informed the spark, ‘ that he always
‘ supported the character of a brave
‘ officer, and would not begin now to
‘ brook any thing that might be con-
‘ strued into an affront ; for though
‘ he had only a pair of colours, he had
‘ served fifty years in the army, and
‘ always had the commendation of his
‘ superior officers.’

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

The courage of a martial hero exemplified, in his philosophical resignation to the will of a highwayman, and his panic at the apprehension of reseeing him; with the uncommon scene that the expression of his fear produced.

BY this time the coach arrived at the inn, where the passengers alighted; when nothing material occurred, without the discovery of the elderly lady's profession, and the young one being her apprentice in quality of a milliner, by the loss of a band-box, can receive that construction.

P. The coach resumed, the son of Mars entertained his fellow-travellers with his exploits and great achievements

ments at the battles of Blenheim, Oudenard and Wynendael; and just as he had routed the French at Tannieres, a highwayman came up to the coach, and presenting a pistol to his breast, demanded his money, which was very readily given him; and the collector espying his silver-hilted sword, ordered him to deliver that, which he also obeyed. The highwayman then raised contributions upon the rest of the company, who gave him what they pleased; and Mr. Drill was the last he waited upon. As soon as the highwayman was rode off, captain Swagger cried to the fop, ‘Z——ds, ‘Sir, have you let him go? I thought ‘you would have stopt him, or else he ‘should not have escaped me.—If I ‘had my sword, I would after him, ‘and let the scoundrel know, that officers, men of arms, are not to be ‘robbed

‘robbed in this manner.’——‘Ah!
‘indeed captain, (replied Mrs. Plait
‘the milliner) I am surprized you let
‘him rob you—so great a warrior,
‘and so valiant a man!—I wish you
‘had fancied him one of the French
‘at Tanieres, I should have saved all
‘my new fashioned toys.’

‘Why lookye, captain, (urged the
‘mealman) you sha’nt want for arms;
‘here are a brace of pistols charged,
‘if you have a mind to pursue; and
‘in case you should be wounded, I’ll
‘carry you to the house of a tenant of
‘mine, within three miles of here,
‘and you shall be taken care of.’

‘Sir, (replied the veteran) do you
‘imagine I’m afraid of my person, or
‘my life?—Z——ds, I might have
‘been killed twenty times, if I had
‘not

‘ not had the good luck to escape ; but
‘ he is gone too far to overtake him
‘ upon the road ; may-be we shall
‘ meet him at the inn, and then you
‘ shall see if I am afraid of my life.’

The meal-man put up his pistols again, as he found there would be no use for them ; and the company grew very melancholy upon their losses ; so that the coach stopt for dinner, when they were all nodding, except Captain Swagger, the old ensign, who continued cursing and damning under his teeth at the scoundrel that had robbed him.

When the coach put up for the night, they all retired to bed very soon, except the officer, who sat drinking in the kitchen, with the curate of the parish, and the landlord,
about

about two in the morning the ale began to operate, whilst they were examining some fowling pieces of the landlord, and Swagger was wishing he had had one of them with him that day, the rascal of a highwayman should not have robbed him, there was a knocking at the gate, and a gentleman alighted, who was dressed in a blue furtout coat, as was the collector who robbed the coach, whom Swagger espying, dropt his piece, and ran up the gallery, crying fire! fire! fire!

This could not fail alarming all the people in the inn, who made the shortest way into the yard. The mealman, finding the stairs obstructed, came the nearest way, and dropt down from the gallery, without hurting himself; but unfortunately the parish curate

G

being

being underneath, was knocked down, which might easily have been done, without so great a weight as the meal-man's, the ale having thrown the preponderance of his body greatly towards his head. When a light came, the vicar was found in a most lamentable sprawling situation, giving up, not his own ghost, but that of his supper, and swearing a prayer at its departure from his body.

Fanny, in the bustle of getting down the gallery stairs, parted with what small covering she had rose from bed with, and resembled the Venus of Medicis. The fop, who had a great regard for his complexion, and had taken two hours to cold-cream his face, in order to prevent heats, and had been 'till then laying upon his back, for fear of rubbing it off, was brought

brought amongst the group by this outcry, his face in pickle, and his head wrapt round with blankets to soak the cream as it descended. A farmer's daughter, who had eloped from her father's, was going up to London in the waggon to make her fortune, and who saw no impediment to it, but the redness of her arms, for the bleaching of which, she tied them together every night, and fastened the rope to the tester of her bed, and there kept them suspended, had doubled the knot in the hurry, and brought down tester, curtains and all, which were no small impediment to the passage down the gallery stairs. Mrs. Plait the milliner had taken the most valuable of her small band-boxes in the fore part of her shift, and all the way she run along the gallery, which by this time had become very light by the number

how
nice

of candles and links in the yard, the strength of imagination operated so far, that she cried out, keeping fast hold of her shift, and wringing her hands, ‘ Good lord ! was there ever such a fight !—was there ever such a fight !’ It was some time before the real cause and nature of this disturbance could be understood, when every one was ashamed to be found in the situation the accident had thrown them ; but, above all, two ladies, who with their husbands were going to Bath, and who in their confusion mistook each other’s room ; so that when the gentlemen returned to their respective apartments they had changed wives ; which discovery, however, the husbands did not make ’till they rose, though we may reasonably conclude the ladies had perceived a difference some hours before, since it is to be supposed that
the

the coldness of the night, added to the accident which occasioned their rising, must have induced them to *cuddle* for mutual warmth; and as one of the gentlemen was about six feet two inches, and made so much in proportion that he was called the modern colossus, and the other scarce the middle size, and very puny: but though they bartered horns that morning, the editor has not learnt that those of the colossus were larger than the pigmy's. This mistake would not have been made public, if the chambermaid, who perhaps envied the ladies their good fortune in cuckolding their husbands, without their being able to find fault, had not entered their chambers before the gentlemen were up, and blabbed it in every room in the inn before breakfast.

C H A P. VIII.

*Wherein the reader is acquainted with
Fanny's conduct upon her arrival in
London.*

THE novelty of such a scene as this metropolis rendered it a new world to Fanny. She fancied where there was such an appearance of wealth, some might be easily acquired. However, she made enquiry after Sir Thomas Flighty, and having learnt the place of his residence, she wrote to him, to acquaint him with her arrival in town, but she received no answer ; a second epistle produced no better effect. At length, upon applying in person, she was acquainted he was gone down to his seat. Whether his absence from town was feigned, we shall not enquire

enquire into ; but Fanny's present necessity obliged her to have recourse to Mrs. Softing, who, upon seeing so agreeable a girl, presently furnished her one of her houses, not far from the Haymarket, and procured her a waiting-job chariot, recommending her at the same time to her mercer for what cloaths she might want.

Fanny thus situated, imagined in this emporium of commerce, that something might be obtained in an honourable way. She had heard of extraordinary lucrative matches without many pretensions to beauty ; for this reason her early thoughts in town were upon matrimony. She had many offers, some of settlements, others of pecuniary presents ; but she refused them all, having her eye upon a merchant's son, whom she flattered herself

self she had charms enough to make an honourable conquest of.

The youth, ravished with the expectation of out-rivalling so many fine fellows as daily and nightly attended her in public, would have thrown the riches of Asia at her feet, if he had been possessed of them ; as it was, he exhausted his parental pittance in trinkets and baubles, which he was charmed to see her accept of, and which she was obliged to turn into ready money at a great disadvantage for immediate necessities.

He dressed beyond any cit, talked of her equipage as his own, and was the envy of all her followers ; they thought him the happy man upon his own terms, whilst he was to be their rival at the price of her husband. He,
flushed

flushed with his success, imagined every succeeding night would consecrate his bliss, whilst she still with fond reserve found some excuse to baffle the completion of his wishes. Thus did he dangle 'till she found her credit exhausted. But she preferred being a merchant's wife to a peer's mistress. She resolved to make an attack upon him with all the artillery of love, which she erected under the yet masked battery of matrimony.

The country's vernal face, the melody of warblers, the sympathy of bleating lambs, rural groves, and other sylvan scenes, are great auxiliaries to the tender passion. A tête à tête party to Richmond gave rise to many soft, tender wishes in the young cit. 'My dear Fanny, (would he cry) 'why do you trifle thus with my passion?

‘ fion? Have I not fighed long enough
 ‘ at your feet, and proved the reality
 ‘ of my flame?—Prithee make this
 ‘ night witness of our fond love, and
 ‘ of our blifs?’

By Fanny’s sighs ſhe meant to teſtify her fondneſs; by her ſilence, the conſent of her inclination. But when he preſſed her ſtill cloſer to his arms, raviſhing kiſs after kiſs, thoſe fair hemiſpheres, thoſe orbs of more than ſnowy whiteness, which ſeemed to pant for releaſe from irkſome robes, to be ſtill more preſſed, were now diſcovered; a flood of tears ſtopt his further career.—‘ Why will you not
 ‘ make me happy then?’ (ſhe cried)
 ‘ it is in your power—Cuſtom has
 ‘ marked with infamy thoſe unfortu-
 ‘ nate women, who with too great ea-
 ‘ gerneſs have indulged their amorous
 ‘ paſſion.

passion. If you love me, prove it, not by my undoing, that would rather testify your hatred, but by the completion of my felicity—my marriage.'

Young P—— paused some time before he spoke; but she had rivetted him too sure to escape at this alarm. The women are seldom acquainted with the extent of their power, but when they do not intend to exercise it; but she was. He had never till now eyed those charms which he surveyed. The painting of his imagination, though very fine, had fallen short of the original. Fancy seldom proves so bad an artist. Flattery it excels in, like other limners. We never fall in love with a picture, and find the original exceeds the painter's power, but we feel our chains the heavier.

‘ your own interest affected by this
‘ step, let us part for ever, and endea-
‘ vour to forget each other. It were
‘ a hard task I own for me; but sooner
‘ than make you miserable, I would
‘ sacrifice my happiness and myself.’

‘ Talk not (said he) in this strain;
‘ every word rents my heart. The
‘ thoughts of your absence are more
‘ afflicting to me, than all the punish-
‘ ment my father, or the whole world
‘ could inflict.’

In this happy mood did they pass
the day, and returned to London fully
resolved to be joined the next in holy
wedlock. For the first time he lay
in her house, in order to be ready the
next morning to attend her to Keith’s.
But as Fanny had always understood
it was absolutely necessary to have a
H ring

ring for the completion of the ceremony, she would not drive to Clarges-street, although the coach was called, without this cement of connubial rites.

Thus, by omitting no circumstance in regard to making sure of her husband, she lost him ; for as he went into a shop to make this purchase, his father, who was passing by at that time, perceived him, and being curious to know what new bauble he was going to throw away his money upon, before the intended bridegroom observed him, he asked for a woman's plain gold ring, which was a sufficient alarm. The father immediately retired, and having followed him to Fanny's, he had the coach watched, which being ordered to Keith's chapel, May-fair, he was there before

fore it, and prevailed upon the officiating ecclesiastic to let him conceal himself in a closet, 'till such time as the preface to the ceremony was gone through.

Mr. P—— junior alighted at the porch, and led Fanny into the little chapel, where he addressed the parson, ' Sir, we are come to be made ' one flesh and blood, if you please to ' perform the ceremony.' At this, the father, who could remain no longer in ambush, rushed forth, and taking him by the collar, thus harangued him: ' Wretch! dost thou ' know, thou wast upon the very ' brink of perdition—nothing but the ' greatest accident has saved thee. ' Thou wast going to marry a woman, ' not only of infamous character, but ' one who would ruin thee, and

H 2

' make

‘ make thee miserable for ever.—You
‘ must go with me this instant, and
‘ think no more of her.’ With that,
he ordered the coach that brought
the couple there, to drive to his house
in the city.

Neither the youth or Fanny were
yet recovered from their consterna-
tion. As soon as the son repossessed
himself, he would have remonstrated,
but his father told him it was in vain.
Fanny now burst into tears, whilst her
intended husband, whose father was
forcing him from her, still kept his
eyes fixt on our heroine.

When Fanny’s astonishment and
tears subsided, she found herself in the
chapel with the pretended parson, who
endeavoured to comfort her by saying,
it was a very unlucky affair ; but that
as

as the young gentleman's father was so much averse to the match, it was better as it had happened ; adding, if she had a mind for a husband, he could procure her a pretty young fellow, whom he did not doubt would make her a very good one.

She could scarce refrain from abusing this scandal to the cloth ; and indeed as it was, she uttered something like ‘ his being a pimp, not a parson ; ’ which so affronted Mr. Crape,^x that he damned her in his own chapel for a cheating strumpet, and told her to get about her business ; which imprecation soon finished their conversation, and her matrimonial project.

M^r Keith

C H A P. IX.

Her intimacy with beau F——; her unpremeditated intrigue with captain N——, and its fatal discovery.

FANNY's ill success in this first onset, in the road to connubial felicity, caused an entire revolution in the plan of her operations. There was no occasion for an epistle from her lost cit to determine her in this resolution. He wrote to her by stealth, to acquaint his dear intended spouse, as he called her, that his father was so enraged at the step he was going to take, and dreading his relapse, if he were again at his liberty, that he was confined to his chamber, 'till such time as a ship sailed to Jamaica, which would be in a day or two, when he

wasto be configned to the compting-house of his father's correspondent.

Mrs. Softing, who was not without emissaries, was apprised of every part of Fanny's conduct; and the prosperous appearance of this match had hitherto purchased that civility from her, which vanished with Mr. P——. Accordingly she waited upon Fanny, and told her, she had been 'till then very quiet, and never troubled her for the money owing, as she apprehended it might not have been convenient for her to pay it; but that at present having a large sum of money to make up, she could not possibly wait any longer than a week from that day.

At the same time Mrs. Softing visited all the persons to whom she had recommended Fanny for cloaths, &c. and,

and, before the expiration of the seven days, she was beset by all her creditors at once.

In this situation Mrs. Softing repeated her visit ; and, finding her in tears, enquired what was the reason. It were needless to have disowned the cause, when two days more were but to elapse before she was to make the payment for her house. Mrs. Softing told her, she was very sorry for her distress ; but that if she would let her advise, she would soon put her in a way to surmount all difficulties. ‘ There is a gentleman (continued she) ‘ who is dying for you, that is worth ‘ forty thousand pounds—let me introduce him to you, and you may ‘ command his whole fortune.’

Fanny’s virtue was not much shocked at the proposal, and little persuasion
suf-

sufficed to make an appointment for that evening.

Punctual to the moment was Mrs. Softing, who introduced the celebrated Mr. F——. ‘My dear Miss, (said Mrs. Softing) this is the worthiest gentleman upon earth; he is an old acquaintance of mine, and a man of honour; otherwise, you may depend upon it, I should not introduce him to a lady whom I have so great a regard for.’ Fanny curtsied, whilst Mr. F—— approached as fast as his gouty leg would let him, to embrace her. The fragrance of his breath so overcame her, that she was obliged to have recourse to her smelling-bottle, which Mr. F—— construed into a mark of modesty.

The supper, which he had ordered from the tavern, was served up early ;
and

and Mrs. Softing, whose friendly offices Mr. F—— was greatly indebted to, did the honours of the table. The champaign, which circulated very briskly, put Mrs. Softing into such good spirits, that she retired about midnight, in a circum-ambulent direction to a chair which was provided for her.

As soon as she was gone, Mr. F—— renewed his careffes, and tinkling the bell, enquired whether their chamber was ready. At another time Fanny might have rated him for such *sans-façon* behaviour; but her situation was critical, and he had already presented her with a snuff-box, and two twenty pound notes in it, which had the rhetoric to plead his cause to a miracle.

In a word they retired; and Fanny played her part so well behind the scenes,

scenes, that when she reappeared the next day upon the theatre of the world, Mrs. Softing was reconciled to her friendship, and her other creditors turbulency was transformed into the greatest complaisance, and pressure, not to pay, but increase her debts.

Thus did they correspond for some months, to the entire satisfaction of both parties. A masquerade terminated this alliance. Captain N——, one of the handsomest, and at the same time politest men of the age, had discovered the colour of F——'s intended domino, and having so completely imitated him, as well in dress as voice and gesture, that it was scarce possible to distinguish the one from the other, waited an opportunity to join Fanny in the coffee and chocolate-room, whilst F—— was at the tables.

Fanny

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Fanny began the discourse—‘ Bless
‘ me, Mr. F——, (said she) you have
‘ been a great while at play ; is it not
‘ time to retire ?’ and the captain hav-
ing replied affirmatively in F——’s
voice, her servants were immediately
called, who were no less deceived
than she.

Upon their arrival at her house, he
feigned being taken with a violent
cholic, which procured his absence
from her ’till she was in bed, where
he soon found her, and then no longer
personated Mr. F——, but acted in
propria persona as the vigorous captain
N——.

The present delusion was so well
timed, agreeable, and unexpected to
Fanny, that she could not be angry
with him ; but after a repeated caresses,
desired

desired him to retire, in doing which, he met Mr. F—— upon the stairs, who, having made up his sum at the tables, and the circuit of the rooms afterwards, without meeting with his enamorata, concluded she was gone.

What was Mr. F——'s amazement at meeting a figure so perfectly semblant to his own upon the stairs, can be better imagined than expressed: like the other Sofia, he was dubious of the reality of his existence in himself; and, with Nell in the *Devil to Pay*, cried, "Surely that there is me, and I am somebody else."

However, the spectre vanished, and he recovered himself. Fanny, unacquainted with the rencounter, received him with her usual good humour. He upbraided her with inconstancy; she protested her innocence; the ser-

vants were subpæned, and she was cast upon their evidence.

F— was a perfect monster in love. Impotent to enjoy ; jealous of what he could not possess. Like a miser's hoard, his mistress was to be locked from the world ;—disused by himself. With Gripean fury did he resent every trespass upon his unemployed property. Though, conscious of his imbecility, he flattered himself the world was unacquainted with his inabilities. His mistress was his idol ; what impious hand dared make offerings upon her altar ? All his transports were imaginary ; his vanity composed half his joy ; when the shrubs of this were lopt, small was his gratification ; the world was to be acquainted with his disgrace ; his Fanny had been really *possessed*.

His resolves, not like the testimonials of his lust, were quick, were transient. The Bath goddess was disgraced, and Mrs. Softing became her declared enemy.

C H A P. X.

The disagreeable part Fanny was necessitated to act, and its consequences. Her critical situation, and the perplexing alternative she was reduced to. An account of the extraordinary customs, and fatal effects, of a certain infamous house in the Old-Baily.

THE prosperous gale of fortune is a perfect monsoon in life ; and he that would navigate his bark to advantage, must profit of the season. Lose we that, the most of all our expectations is no more. In vain our merit, our abilities are exposed to sale ; nay,

even beauty itself diminishes in its value, and not unfrequently is a very drug in traffic.

This Fanny but too soon evinced ; Mr. F——'s alliance being broke, Mrs. Softing had no longer any terms to keep with her ; she was soon obliged to quit the house ; she was condemned to admit of visiters upon disagreeable terms. A variety of lovers succeeded each other ; the last as welcome as the first, found no alloy in her affections, as long as his presents were standard.

What a disagreeable situation is this to a generous mind ? What an unhappy circle to move in for a thinking person ? To be the sink of mankind ! To court alike the beastly drunkard, the nauseating rake ! diffimulating distaste for enjoyment ! No balmy ease,

ease, no innocent comfort ; but nocturnal incontinence and repeated debauch !

What must be the ultimate end of such variegated concupiscence ? Infection. This overtook Fanny. Her market was at a stand ; her goods were damaged ; her small stock exhausted in surgical fees ; her cloaths were pledged upon the same account ; her surgeon took his last fee, produced by her last gown.

Pale and languid we now view her ; rid of infection it is true ; but also of friends, of money, of covering. What course to steer was the grand question. Could she have retained her pristine innocence, and the place of her nativity, a nosegay-vender would have been a comfortable, an agreeable occupation.

pation. But, alas! she had soared too high, and her fall was the greater. Servitude she had pitched upon; but could find no mistress who would accept of her without a good character; and the world was too well acquainted with her, to give her any other than her own.

In this unhappy state, revolving in her mind with Hamlet:

To be—or not to be!

The poison prepared; upon the very brink of eternal perdition, her landlady entered, and acquainted her that Mrs.——, in the Old-Baily, had sent to know if she had any country girls, or others that were clean, in her house, to replace those that had been sent to Bridewell the night before.

Her

Her landlady at the same time informed her she would be immediately rigged from head to foot, and live well, if she kept herself from picking of pockets.

However prostituted Fanny might hitherto have been, she was shocked at the thoughts of succeeding those unhappy women sent to prison, which lot might be her's the very next night. But her landlady having seconded this information, with a remonstrance concerning the rent due, and money owing for goods, (for, alas ! we now view Fanny in a garret, at a chandler's shop) our heroine judged by the shrewdness of her hints, that if she rejected this proposal, the alternative might be a gaol for debt. This decided her doubts ; and Fanny is at
her

her new landlady's in the Old-Baily in less than an hour.

After some bawdish compliments, Fanny, for the first time, was acquainted with the means of recovering her complexion. Rouge was introduced, and laid on, without either art or judgment; and she was dressed up in dabs for the patrol of Fleet-street and the Strand that evening.

What success she had we shall not enquire after, further than noticing that by the end of the week she had picked up five pounds ten shillings and sixpence; and that after she had paid for her lodging, board, cloaths, &c. she was sixpence in pocket. That the reader may not be surprized at this small residue, we shall give him the landlady's bill for the week verbatim, with

with only some few corrections in the spelling.

(a) To board and lodging	———	1	15	0
(b) To washing	———	0	7	0
(c) To the use of a brocade gown	———	0	8	0
(d) To the use of a pair of stays	———	0	3	0
(e) To the use of a pair of silk shoes	———	0	2	6
(f) To the use of smocks	———	0	7	0
(g) To the use of ruffles	———	0	2	0
(h) To the use of petticoats	———	0	4	0
(i) To seeing the constable of the night, for preventing her going to Bridewell	———	0	10	6

Carried over ——— 3 18 6

- (a) In a garret, upon small beer and sprats.
- (b) Two smocks, two handkerchiefs, and two pair of stockings.
- (c) Of the intrinsic value of a crown.
- (d) Not worth a shilling.
- (e) Ditto.
- (f) Coarse, old, and patched.
- (g) Darned, of the original value of half a crown.
- (h) All of the lower sort, except one water-tabby petticoat, pifs-burnt.
- (i) Peace-officers fee'd—in buckram.

To

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Brought over	—	—	3	18	6
(k) To the use of a hat	—	—	0	2	0
(l) To the use of ribbands	—	—	0	3	6
(m) Pins	—	—	0	0	6
(n) To the use of a capuchin	—	—	0	8	0
(o) To the use of a gauze apron	—	—	0	5	0
(p) To the use of a gauze handkerchief	—	—	0	2	6
(q) To the use of a pair of silk stockings	—	—	0	2	6
(r) To the use of a pair of stone buckles	—	—	0	4	6
(s) Carmine, tooth - powder, and brushes	—	—	0	3	0
					5 10 0

(k) Worthless.

(l) Unused.

(m) A few.

(n) A cloak for imposition.

(o) Of Rag-fair genealogy.

(p) Ditto.

(q) Yellow, and pieced.

(r) Most of the stones out. No price.

(s) Carmine, alias brick-dust. Tooth-powder ditto. Brushes, unseen.

The money thus applied was mostly gained by apprentice-boys, who were seduced to the house, to spend double the sum they gave to their doxy in bad punch, and worse negus. Perhaps their masters tills were the only treasures for such debauchery ; but good Mrs. ——, the landlady, never indulged herself with any such reflexions. If Tyburn carried off one set of her customers, which it frequently did, growing vice and the depravity of the times furnished her with another.

Though Fanny was obliged to throw off her real character, humanity, and a charitable disposition for her fellow-creatures, so far as to inveigle them into present expences for the benefit of the house, she had never had an opportunity of injuring
their

their healths, nor ever prompted them to unlawful means, for obtaining money for the service of her mistress or herself. But far different was the practice of her associates. Many an antique gonorrhea and even confirmed p—x have they transplanted, by a drunken libidinous husband, to an innocent wife, and to the blood of posterity ; glorying at their chicanery, and wishing every one as infected as themselves. Many a youth have they excited to commence highwayman, for the support of that infamous house. Many a sessions paper has owed its historical existence to the heroes of their creating !

In this deplorable sphere was Fanny compelled to act, dreading the resentment of her landlady for every pretended fault, daily threatened with additional

ditional taxations, and menaced to be imprisoned for her rent and necessities, when she could not clear her landlady's exorbitant demands. It required but little sensibility to resolve getting out of the clutches of such a diabolical governess; but the danger was her being in reality taken up and sent to Bridewell, upon her landlady's information of prostitution, if she deserted her.

However, having with art and secrecy sequestered to the amount of seven guineas, the product of her venereal practice, which, according to the laws of her despotic mistress, she should have paid into her hands for pretended expences, she quitted this detestable spot, leaving behind her whatever cloaths her landlady might lay claim to. She retook one of her

K

former

former lodgings near St. James's, and by laying out her small stock to advantage, she gained credit for much more.

C H A P. XI.

Fanny resumes a polite sphere. Drives a great trade; employs a deputy. With the ceremony of being enrolled in the celebrated negociator H——s's list.

AS soon as Fanny re-appeared in public, her former lovers renewed their addresses; for, fortunately, though she had existed in the very center of low debauchery for some months, her health, so far from being impaired by it, was recovered. Though she did not regain her former grandeur; though she kept no equipage, she had as numerous a train
of

of gallants as ever ; and adversity had by this time taught her so much experience, that she turned all her amours to her own interest.

A succession of lovers now produced her not only a sufficiency to live genteely, but to amass a considerable sum. She found that she must agree to their oddities, and even court their caprices.

She had so much business, all in the private lodging, ready-money way, she could not possibly drive so great a trade entirely upon her own bottom; but was obliged to employ a deputy, who so much resembled her, that many who had possessed both, could scarce tell the difference. Miss G— had her face enamelled by the same painter as Fanny, who made the copy

K 2

fo

so like the original, it required some virtù not to be imposed upon.

Notwithstanding Fanny's extensive commerce, Mr. H^xs, the celebrated negociator in women, applied to get her enrolled upon his parchment list, as a *new face*; though, properly speaking, she had now been upon the town near four years. However, the ceremony was performed with all the punctilios attending that great institution; a surgeon being present for a complete examination of her person, and to report her well or ill, and a lawyer to ingross her name, &c. after having signed a written agreement, to forfeit twenty pounds, if she gave the negociator a wrong information concerning the state of her health in every particular. Then her name was ingrossed upon a whole skin of parchment,

Harris

ment, with the following description and account adjoined.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Condition.</i>	<i>Description.</i>	<i>Place of Abode.</i>
FANNY M——	Perfectly sound wind and limb.	A fine brown girl, rising nineteen years next season. A good side- box piece — will shew well in the flesh- market — wear well — may be put off for a vir- gin any time these twelve months—ne- ver common this side Tem- ple-Bar, but for six months. Fit for high keeping with a Jew mer- chant.--N. B. A good præ- mium from ditto.—Then	The first floor at Mrs. ——'s, milli- ner at Cha- ring Cross.

the run of the
house—and if
she keeps out
of the Lock,
may make her
fortune, and
ruin half the
men in town.

C H A P. XII.

An uncommon adventure with Doctor Wagtail, alias, the Walking Lexicon. His manner of address and behaviour to his girls. With the application of his sword and perriwig.

AFTER being thus initiated in the arcanum of Mr. H—'s system of fornication, she plied regularly in the flesh-market at the houses during the season; by which means she increased the price of her favours, never now receiving under two guineas,

neas, and being still in hopes of preferment, as we find her upon H—s's list.

Doctor Wagtail lit upon her one night at Drury-Lane, and carried her to the Sh^xsp—r; he would fain have had her go in a chair, but the chairmen not understanding Greek, she was obliged to walk through the rain, this physical gentleman scorning to talk the vulgar tongue in the street.

Upon the doctor's arrival at the tavern, he began to profess to her she was as fine a woman as he had ever seen, and quoted two or three pages of Ovid in a breath.

Fanny replied, she did not understand him; that he was too learned a gentleman—

Shakespeare's head Tavern

gentleman for her, and hoped he would talk in a more familiar language.

‘ I profess to you, my dear Madam,’ said the doctor, ‘ you are the finest creature I ever saw, and if it was not for this very libidinous molitio I have upon me, I would not attempt to deflower you.’

Fanny thought it was now time to retire, since in all likelihood they should not comprehend each other the whole evening; accordingly she was upon the point of departing, but he flew to the door, and crying, *Tene-
one te me, an etiamnum somno volunt
fæminæ videri cogi ad id quod maxi-
mum cupiunt*, he reseated her.

She now began to be out of temper with so much erudition; and taking
him

him for some poor poet, insinuated, she believed he was a bilk. — ‘ No, ‘ Madam, I profess to you, my angel,’ replied the doctor, ‘ I would not bilk ‘ such a divine creature, as you Ma- ‘ dam, for paradise, Madam.’ She told him it was impossible for her to stay with him, without he began to be a little more intelligible ; and in order to explain what he meant, if he had any meaning at all, she hoped he would excuse her desiring him, as he was an entire stranger, to make her a present before-hand.

The doctor agreed to the reasonableness of her demand ; and pulled out his purse, but it containing no more than five shillings and sixpence, all which he offered her, she flew into a passion, telling him he was some gareteer scribbler, some poor
hack-

hackney poet; for that no gentleman could talk so much Latin and Greek, and not have a guinea about him. This brought in the negociator, who, under pretence of snuffing the candles, had a mind to gain some intelligence concerning the cause of this tumult.

The doctor immediately addressed him in these words: ‘ My worthy
 ‘ friend, Mr. H—s, I profess to you
 ‘ this is a very extraordinary case,
 ‘ you know it is not my way to bilk
 ‘ women: I profess, to you I live at
 ‘ the third house from the corner,
 ‘ the blue lamp, in S—— square;
 ‘ Mr. B—’s house, a very worthy
 ‘ man, I profess to you Mr. H—s.
 ‘ My good friend, Mr. H—s, now
 ‘ the case is just this, this angel, this
 ‘ goddess, this Venus, I profess to
 ‘ you,

‘you, is a very fine woman, and
‘so having a mind for a little intrigue
‘with her, I profess to you, Sir, Mr.
‘H—s, that I offered her my purse
‘with all the money in it, and, Sir, I
‘profess to you, she flung it in my
‘face, Sir, though the sum total was
‘five shillings and sixpence sterling
‘Sir.’

H—s, who began to have some remembrance of the doctor, endeavoured to compromise the affair, at the same time telling Wagtail, that that lady never went under two guineas, she being the celebrated *Miss Fanny M——*. As soon as Wagtail heard this he could refrain no longer; even Greek and Latin gave way to his carnal appetite, and taking out his sword, which was silver-hilted, desired the negociator to let him have
as

as much upon that, as would satisfy the lady. H—s, after looking at it, told him, he believed it would not pawn for above a guinea and a half. ‘No’! said the doctor, ‘what shall I do then for the other half piece?’ ‘I will venture to let you have it,’ replied the negociator, ‘upon your perriwig, if it has never been fluxed.’ Wagtail protesting it never had, the bargain was struck, and H—s retired with his pledges.

C H A P. XIII.

Fanny's introduction at the Whores Club; some account thereof, with an abstract of the extraordinary rules and orders of that honourable society.

SHE was soon after introduced at the Whores Club, which assembled every Sunday evening near Covent-garden, to talk over their various successes, compare notes, and canvass the most probable means of improving them the week following. They at the same time cleared their arrears with their factor Mr. H—s, who had five shillings in the pound freight for conveying them into the arms of their enamorato's.

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The

The rules to be observed in this society were various and extraordinary, of which take the following extract.

Rules to be observed by the worthy members of the Whores Club.

1. Every member of this society must have been debauched before she was fifteen.

2. Every member of this society must be upon the negociator H—s's list; and never have incurred the penalty of being erased therefrom; either on account of not paying poundage, making proper returns of her health, or any other cause whatever.

3. No modest woman whatever to be admitted a member of this society.

4. No

4. No member of this society must have been in Bridewel above once.

5. Any member of this society, that may have been tried at the Old-Baily, for any crime except picking of pockets, shall not be objected re-instating, if acquitted, upon condition she did not plead her belly.

6. Any member of this society who may become with child, shall be struck off the list, no longer coming under the denomination of a whore.

7. Each member to pay half a crown; one shilling whereof to be applied to the support of such members as may be under a course of physic, and not fit for business, or cannot get into the Lock; another sixpence thereof to the use of our negociator,

L 2 for

for his great care and assiduity in the proper conducting this worthy society; and the remaining shilling to be spent in liquor, at the option of the members — Gin not excluded.

9. Any member, who may become a modest woman by going into keeping, shall, upon quitting the society, make a donation thereto, in proportion to her settlement or allowance.

10. No man whatever to be admitted into this society, except our negociator; who has the privilege of chusing what member he pleases for his bedfellow that night, she not being pre-engaged.

11. No conversation is prohibited but religion and politics; as the first always indicates a drunken assembly,
and

and the latter generally terminates in party feuds.

12. Any member who shall get so intoxicated as not to be able to walk, shall be immediately sent home in a coach or chair, at the expence of the society, to be refunded by her at the ensuing meeting.

13. Any member who shall break any glasses, bottles, &c. or behave in a riotous manner, shall be immediately expelled, and the damages made good before she be re-admitted.

14. If any member by an overcharge of liquor, should, in clearing her stomach, spoil any other member's cloaths, she shall be obliged to take the same off her hands, and furnish her with new ones, or in some other manner compensate the damages.

N. B. Every member, before she be admitted of this society, must engage, under the penalty of one guinea and a dram round, to conform herself to the foregoing rules, for the proper decorum thereof.

Notwithstanding these salutary rules, a rigid moralist might suspect, that the tendency of this club was not to promote virtue and good order in society, but rather, by a continued course of debauchery, to fit women for, if possible, further prostitution. The editor of this work will take no pains to refute any such error, since it will be only necessary to consider who was president of the society, to be convinced of the virtuous intent of its institution.

However,

However, amongst near a hundred of the members this society was composed of, there were some of good, nay, of noble families, and most of them of creditable and honest parents, who, through a too rigid punishment of a first fault, or perhaps misfortune, immersed them into despair and irretrievable obscenity.

A striking instance of the latter kind was *Miss* Charlotte S——, who had not yet so entirely divested herself of all modesty, but that she could occasionally resume her former situation. As the narrative of this lady's misfortunes has something in it so very singular and unprecedented, I shall make no apology for giving it the reader in the following chapter.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIV.

The affecting story of Miss Charlotte S——, who was debauched by her husband. The cruel treatment of her father thereupon, and its fatal consequences to her.

A S Miss Charlotte S—— was the only member of the club the reader has been introduced to in the preceding chapter, that Fanny made any acquaintance with, so Fanny was the only confidant Charlotte had. Upon Fanny's testifying a desire of being acquainted with the cause of her present situation, she gave her the following relation.

‘ Though I can boast of no great
‘ pedigree, my father was a substantial,
reputable

‘ reputable man ; a considerable dealer
‘ at Newcastle, and had several ships
‘ employed in the coal trade.

‘ As an only daughter, I had an edu-
‘ cation much superior to my rank.
‘ Dancing, music, Italian, and French,
‘ added to the figure you see, then un-
‘ sullied, could not fail procuring me
‘ an early train of lovers. Innocence,
‘ the happiest state of mortals, and my
‘ mother’s care, protected me from all
‘ dishonourable attacks. Many matches
‘ were proposed to my father ; but as
‘ none of my lovers were so disinte-
‘ rested as to marry me without a for-
‘ tune, they were all disappointed in
‘ demanding one; my father replying,
‘ he thought my person and qualifica-
‘ tions a sufficient portion.

‘ Accident

‘ Accident brought to our assembly
‘ a gentleman whom I was an entire
‘ stranger to, and he to me. He took
‘ me out to dance, and frequently
‘ whispered to me about the force of
‘ my charms ; all which I construed
‘ to the emolument of his good breed-
‘ ing. The next day produced from
‘ him a letter full of knight-errantry ;
‘ flames and darts at every line. I
‘ looked upon this letter in its true
‘ light, thinking it rather a testimony
‘ of his lust, than of his love. When
‘ he found me inexorable to all his
‘ fine speeches and letters, he left the
‘ place ; though not without trying
‘ some stratagems to carry me off. A
‘ year elapsed without my hearing any
‘ more of him ; and he was entirely
‘ obliterated from my memory.

‘ At

‘ At the end of this time, a seem-
‘ ing gentleman-like man, who pre-
‘ tended to be upon the northern cir-
‘ cuit, came to our town, and speedily
‘ fell in love with me. My mother
‘ was then dead; and my father, who
‘ had now an opportunity of disposing
‘ of me without any expence, listened
‘ to his terms, as he proposed to take
‘ me without any fortune. His own
‘ was indisputable, if judged from the
‘ many recommendations he had.

‘ He proposed deferring the cere-
‘ mony ’till my arrival in town, as he
‘ intended, he said, in order to prove
‘ his real affection for me, to settle an
‘ annuity of a hundred and fifty pounds
‘ a year upon me. Accordingly, it
‘ was agreed upon to set out for Lon-
‘ don to celebrate our nuptials; and
‘ the

‘ the day after our arrival there, the
 ‘ ceremony was performed by my
 ‘ husband’s supposed brother, at his
 ‘ own chambers in the Temple, and
 ‘ the consummation was to be at the
 ‘ same place.

‘ When the hour of connubial felicity
 ‘ approached, my husband led me
 ‘ to my chamber, and retired through
 ‘ decency, as I supposed, till I was in
 ‘ bed ; he then returned, and having
 ‘ undressed himself, and extinguished
 ‘ the candles, came to me, as I
 ‘ thought. — But what was my surprise
 ‘ in the morning, when I discovered
 ‘ in bed with me my pretended
 ‘ lover of last year, and not my husband.

‘ Out of bed I flew, and with the
 ‘ utmost rage called murder ! villains !
 ‘ but

‘ but there were no servants, no per-
‘ sons to answer to my call. The ra-
‘ visher of my conjugal bed rose, and,
‘ with all the art of premeditated
‘ treachery, endeavoured to palliate
‘ his crime; urging the fervency of
‘ his passion, the various means he
‘ had, without success, tried to obtain
‘ me. The more he reasoned, the
‘ more I raved. I called for my hus-
‘ band; he answered not. At length
‘ I sunk under the oppression of cala-
‘ mity; my spirits exhausted, I swoon-
‘ ed. When I recovered, my hus-
‘ band was with me, who, with a tru-
‘ ly sycophantic air, hoped I was bet-
‘ ter. Unable to refrain even in my
‘ then present condition, I upbraided
‘ him with his perfidy. He denied
‘ point-blank every accusation, and
‘ swore the night had been the most
‘ joyful he had ever had; that no man

M

‘ had

‘ had been in my chamber but him-
‘ self; advising me to compose my-
‘ self a little, as I was not yet reco-
‘ vered.

‘ When he found I could not be
‘ persuaded out of my reason and my
‘ senses, he frankly acknowledged the
‘ whole plan of villainy; that he was
‘ no other than Mr. H——, the pimp;
‘ that he had been employed by lord
‘ ——, to seduce me to town, under
‘ pretence of marriage; that the cere-
‘ mony performed was not lawful;
‘ and that he had received five hun-
‘ dred pounds, besides the reimburse-
‘ ment of all expences, to let my lord,
‘ who was secreted ready in a closet
‘ in my chamber, ’till such time as
‘ the candles were extinguished, pos-
‘ sels me the first night in his stead.

‘ I shall not endeavour to paint to
‘ you my astonishment at this dis-
‘ covery. The most lively imagina-
‘ tion, with the assistance of the most
‘ vivid expression, would fall short of
‘ what I felt. If such was my amaze-
‘ ment, what was my detestation of
‘ the treacherous villain that dared
‘ make the recital ! What were my
‘ pangs ! Words, that then refused
‘ their utterance, in vain attempt to
‘ tell my grief.

‘ Without any attention to my af-
‘ fliction, he continued to harangue
‘ upon the most advisable method of
‘ my conducting myself. “ You must
“ (continued he) endeavour to get
“ into the good graces of my lord
“ ——, as much by your prudent be-
“ haviour as you are by your person ;
M 2 “ and

“ and I doubt not but his lordship
“ will make a handsome provision for
“ you.”

‘ In this melancholy situation I wrote
‘ my whole unhappy affair, with every
‘ circumstance related, to my father ;
‘ but I have not yet received an an-
‘ swer. I was upon the point of set-
‘ ting out for Newcastle, when a per-
‘ son waited upon me to inform me,
‘ my relations and friends would dis-
‘ own me, and have me secured as a
‘ prostituted vagabond.

‘ I shall not dwell upon the anxiety
‘ this occasioned in me, or the diffi-
‘ culty I had to reconcile being kept
‘ by his lordship. However, penury
‘ and want at length got the better of
‘ my virtue. I lived with him ’till I cloy-
‘ ed his lust with my constancy. He
‘ then

‘ then turned me off, and my sup-
 ‘ posed husband put me upon his list,
 ‘ for the advantage of himself, and my
 ‘ destruction.’

C H A P. XV.

*A short history of an antiministerial
 writer ; the manner of his being
 supported by his party ; and an un-
 common stratagem used by another
 to prevent starving ; recommended to
 the reading of all witlings in the
 first stage of the cacoethes scribendi.*

THIS extraordinary adventure of
 Mr. H— raised such a curiosity
 in Fanny to be further acquainted
 with his history, that the next time
 she had an opportunity of a tête a tête,
 she desired him to give her a short
 sketch of his life. H—, who by this
 time found the great esteem Fanny

M 3

was

was in amongst his best friends at the Sh—p—r, did not hesitate favouring her with the following detail.

‘ A younger brother to a good family in Somersetsshire married against his father’s consent, and I was the first offspring of this Fool’s Tragedy. A series of misfortunes overtook the young couple ; and my father, after many promises from great men, of places, sine-cures and pensions, found himself upon the very brink of going to goal for debt. In this situation, and with so much reason for invective, he commenced writer, and failed not to abuse those who had so abused him. As he had a natural turn for satire, and as necessity steeped his pen the deeper in gall, to furnish him a subsistence, he soon made himself very remarkable amongst the
anti

anti-ministerial writers of those days ; and the country party lifted him under their banner. He was a long while a potent antagonist of Sir R—— W——. He occasionally appeared in a Fog ; but was most conspicuous in a Mist. By this means he gained a decent competence, and was just upon the point of sending me to Westminster school, when a S——y of S——'s warrant procured him a lodging gratis at a messenger's.

He was there some weeks for want of bail, all his party deserting him, as soon as they had notice of his misfortune. I had an opportunity of often visiting him, though his keeper pretended he had strict orders to let no body see him.

During his confinement he passed his time tolerably agreeable with his
old

old friend Mr. P—— the author, who had wrote on all sides, and upon all subjects, 'till no bookseller would buy his productions, or any printer trust him with the impresson. He had offered himself to the managers of both houses for an actor, but tho' he thought he spoke the capital speeches in most characters better than Betterton, Booth or Wilks, as he was so thin as not to be a figure for any part but the apothecary in Romeo, and as that play then never had a run of sixteen nights successively at both houses at once, he was obliged to give up his pretensions to acting. In short, his only resource to save himself from starving, was to turn informer against himself, to get into a messenger's hands; and with this view he wrote an anonymous letter to one of the under S——s of S——e, to
ac-

acquaint him that Mr. P—— (meaning himself) certainly carried on a treasonable correspondence with the Chevalier St. George. This had its desired effect ; a warrant was presently issued, and he was detained for want of sureties, 'till he was fat enough to perform any part that did not require such a corporation as Sir John Falstaff.

My father's imprisonment did not terminate at the messenger's ; as he could not procure sufficient bail, he was moved to the King's Bench prison ; where he was detained 'till his trial came on, and then sentenced to be imprisoned for three years, and fined in the penalty of five hundred pounds.

His misfortunes had so sowered his natural temper, that he had become a
per-

perfect misanthrope. The ill treatment he had received from both parties had given him an utter detestation of all ; and he seemed now to languish at his confinement, only because he had not an opportunity of imposing upon the world, as much as they had imposed upon him. A specimen of his retaliation was the advice he gave me, and which he repeated to me so often, that I believe I can pretty near rehearse it word for word.

C H A P. XVI.

Wholesome advice to his son for his conduct in life, and its effect exemplified in the practice of the modern negotiator.

‘ **A**S you are not born to a fortune, my son,’ (he would say) ‘ it is now time for you to think of acquiring’

‘ quiring one, and as I have had some
‘ experience in the world, I have
‘ taken particular care you should not
‘ split upon the same rock that I have.
‘ There is nothing so great an obstacle
‘ to getting money as learning, for if
‘ once you get a smattering of lan-
‘ guages, or make the least proficiency
‘ in the sciences, you are undone: it
‘ is ten to one if you don’t think your-
‘ self a genius, or at least that you
‘ have merit, the only impediment in
‘ life to preferment! If, as most likely
‘ you may, you have some intimacy
‘ with the muses, you are miserable;
‘ wed which you will, you must in-
‘ evitably be not only a cuckold, but
‘ a poor one; for while she flatters
‘ you with her love, and the fortune
‘ she brings you, she grants her fa-
‘ vours to another, and not only dis-
‘ poses of her own, but all your pos-
‘ sessions,

‘ sessions, and the greatest of all your
‘ time.

‘ No, no, my son, I have taken
‘ care to prepare you for quite other
‘ employment, there is nothing to be
‘ got with those b—t—es the muses,
‘ who are more errant bunters than
‘ any that walk the Strand, without
‘ it be an intellectual gonorrhea, a
‘ thousand times more hard to stop
‘ than a corporal one. Besides, for-
‘ tune and patrons are blind to learn-
‘ ing and abilities. Would you get
‘ money, my son--studymen’s passions;
‘ ply them. Is a man ambitious of
‘ fame — go through thick and thin,
‘ to make him the greatest patriot
‘ that ever existed; but be sure of your
‘ reward before you give the finishing
‘ stroke to his reputation. Does he love
‘ wenching—pimping is a thriving
‘ calling, it must be orthodox, or
‘ some

‘ some who do would not profess it.
‘ Does he want a seat in the h—se—
‘ vote for him, bribe for him, swear for
‘ him; there is no harm in all this. A
‘ scrupulous man, indeed, may object to
‘ an oath because it is false, but it may
‘ be true; read it not, and then you
‘ cannot tell which it is, and they ad-
‘ minister it so fast, you cannot un-
‘ derstand it, even if you would. If
‘ your patron loves play, learn dex-
‘ terity of hand of the Black, and cheat
‘ as much as you can; take care, do
‘ not be detected, if you are, swear
‘ and bluster, challenge, fight and kill,
‘ and then your honour is retrieved.
‘ This is done every day with success;
‘ there is nothing washes off the slur
‘ of infamy, but the man’s blood you
‘ have offended: let no scruple of con-
‘ science preponderate with you; to
‘ thrive in this world, a man must not
‘ have a grain of that commodity.’

N

This

This advice of my father I ever kept in my mind, and as he died soon after the first year of his imprisonment, and left me no other inheritance, I looked upon this instruction as my only personal estate ; and I have ever since guided my actions by it. I commenced gentleman, without any other pretensions to that rank, but impudence and ignorance ; which, indeed, make so great a share of the *modern* polite man's accomplishments. I took a house in Westminster in hopes of making my fortune by elections ; but no general one soon ensuing, I was obliged to lay aside, with my house, all my hopes upon that score.

I soon learnt to cheat at play ; but having no head for calculations, and no knowledge of figures, it was of little avail to me. Besides, as killing
one's

one's man was so essential a part of a gamester's qualifications, who proposed re-establishing himself, after a discovery, among that honourable class, and not finding the least disposition in my heart towards fighting, I fairly gave up my pretensions to this noble calling.

However, I at length discovered my fort;—nature designed me for a pimp: insinuating, dissembling, flattering, cringing, fawning, conniving, with philosophy enough to bear a kicking, and a face as great a (seeming) barrier to incontinence as eunuchism, I could not fail making a great proficiency in this elegant art. Accordingly I have persevered in it for these eight years, and in the course of that time have debauched more women's morals, than all the rakes of Covent-Garden have their persons.

I have my emissaries in every corner of the town, to see what new faces there are amongst the servant-maids and milliners apprentices. Every stage coach and waggon that comes in, undergoes the inspection of my deputies; and such girls as are handsome are seduced by promises or places, 'till they come upon my list. Most of the petty R--g--r Offices about town are under my direction: none but ugly girls fail of getting into service, and losing their maidenheads—if they have them.

I take a trip every summer to Dublin, to raise Irish recruits, and I never fail importing as many as will supply the place of those that rot in and out of gaols and hospitals, die natural deaths, are worn out by service, or carried off by keeping. I
muster

muster all the Irish recruits, who are in general the handsomest, and teach them their exercise myself; so that when they are introduced into company they are perfect adepts in their art. It is entirely owing to me that there is such a fine nursery of whores (particularly Irish) now in town; and I look upon myself to be as useful a member of society, for procuring such good provisions in this way for my fellow-countrymen, as any factor or contractor whatever; for without regrating or forestalling, I always furnish the market, and would rather run the risk of a glut than a scarcity.

C H A P. XVII.

Wherein the reader, who is disposed for argument, will find a very curious one upon love, and the conduct of each sex in that particular. Also Fanny's first interview with Sir Richard A——, and its favourable consequences.

AN unforeseen accident threw Fanny into the company of Sir Richard ~~Athins~~ at Clapham. She happened to be visiting one of his tenants, where he came; and the discourse, which was for a long while general, centered at length in love. As a young man, he praised his own sex for generosity and the disinterestedness of their passion; whereas the women, he said, very seldom entered into a correspondence of that nature without

without pecuniary views : they measured out their favours, and, like a sharpening pedlar, would not let you have a grain more than you paid for.

Fanny observed, the inconstancy of the men, and their resolution to be the sex's destroyers, made those women that had suffered by some men, retaliate their grievances upon the rest : but, that to judge of the whole by a few, would be too rash and partial.

The knight answered with remarking, that in the whole course of his female acquaintance, he had never known one do a generous thing, or even the appearance of it, without some sinister view, either to gratify their vanity, or their passions.

Such a general attack upon the women naturally induced the lady of the
house

house to declare herself the champion of the sex. ‘ Sir Richard, (said she) ‘ the very faults you find so much ‘ reason to censure in us, are all of an ‘ exotic soil; if we now nourish them, ‘ they are transplanted from the masculine to the feminine; and our errors, like our beauties, we improve ‘ as we adopt them. If we act ungenerously towards the men, their own ‘ conduct has led us to it. If the least ‘ appearance of beneficence in us is to ‘ gratify our pride, or our passions, ‘ we still tower above you; for you ‘ are very misers in the indulgence of ‘ both; and your vanity, which must ‘ subsist, has but a small pittance for ‘ its support. Your excesses are all ‘ committed without any premeditated ‘ design. You will fling away a thousand or two at Arthur’s, which neither does honour to yourself, or
‘ those

‘ those connected with you ; whilst
‘ you would grudge your wife or your
‘ mistress a new gown, though per-
‘ haps she might really want it. You
‘ could lose as much at a cock-match,
‘ amongst a parcel of gamblers, who
‘ only laugh at you, and despise you
‘ for it, as would purchase a new equi-
‘ page, and perhaps are obliged to
‘ part with your horses the next day,
‘ to pay this very debt of honour.’

The knight put in his caveat, ob-
serving, that her accusation was very
exceptionable, and though there might
be many men, who dissipated their
fortunes in that ridiculous manner,
there were many more who were ruined
by their blind attachment to women.

‘ I know not what you call an at-
tachment to women, Sir Richard;
(replied

(replied the lady) but if by that you
‘ mean squandering away money
‘ foolishly in brothels, for the emolu-
‘ ment of bawds, pimps and parasites,
‘ is an attachment to women, I’ll agree
‘ with you, a great deal of money is
‘ flung away in that manner; but few
‘ men ingross so great a share of folly,
‘ as to persevere in this ridiculous dis-
‘ sipation. Youths just come from
‘ college, and a very few men, who
‘ have seen nothing of the world, or
‘ profited nought by seeing it, compose
‘ the whole of the genteel resorters to
‘ those places. As to the extravagance
‘ of your sex upon the women they
‘ really enjoy, it is merely chimerical,
‘ when you would urge it as a proof
‘ of the generosity of the men. There
‘ are not twenty kept-women that
‘ are enabled to procure themselves
‘ besides their dress and outward ex-
‘ pences

‘ pences, more than necessaries. And
‘ if you would speak of your genero-
‘ sity with respect to matrimony, it
‘ would be ridiculous to think you se-
‘ rious; since no man, who marries
‘ a woman without a fortune, however
‘ accomplished, or beautiful she may
‘ be, is looked upon a degree above a
‘ driveller.’

Sir Richard was too hard pressed in the general argument to pretend supporting it any longer, therefore he retired under the walls of self-defence, by protesting, however just the character the lady had given of his sex might be, it was at least quite opposite to his; and in a whisper told Fanny, he should think himself the happiest of mortals, in having an opportunity of convincing her of what he said.

The

The hint was too favourable not to be taken, and after some little artificial apologies, Fanny favoured him with her direction, and an invitation to wait upon her next day.

The knight was not shocked when he came to find he had been paying so many compliments to a woman he might have obtained without one word's speaking. Far from this, he commended her conduct, and assured her, she was the first woman who moved in her sphere, that had imposed upon his judgment with respect to her situation ; that her conduct convinced him she had merit much superior to her fate; and that he would exert his utmost efforts to remove the *bond*, which so much blinded fortune as to let her pass unnoticed.

We

We before observed, that Fanny's acquaintance with Mrs. Stevens at Bath gave her the first rudiments of polite behaviour, which she had much improved by her own observations; and though necessity often obliged her to act the part she with so much reluctance appeared in; yet she could occasionally throw it off, and without any apparent affectation assume that of the polite lady. 'To this happy disposition, perhaps, Fanny is as much indebted for her success, as to her face. She surpassed all women of pleasure in this particular, who generally imagine that men are caught with oaths and bawdry, when there is nothing in a woman's mouth gives so much offence.

Sir Richard was actually in love with our heroine. She was the first
O woman

woman of common sense or prudence he had been acquainted with. She was the handsomest he had ever seen. A youth just come of age, heir to a good fortune and title, wanted nothing but a mistress to complete his felicity. Fanny was the properest woman in the world he could have pitched upon, and he met with her. She did the honours of his table with that ease and composure, that could not be surpassed by a woman of the first fashion. Every one commended his choice; already happy in his opinion, this corroborating his judgment, could not fail to add lustre to eyes that wanted no reflecting mirror to dazzle, and gave superior grace to a deportment that was gracious to all, mean to none.

He gave her ample conviction of the truth of what he whispered to her, and
then

their first interview. A splendid equipage, a numerous retinue, an elegant furnished house, and a handsome allowance, were not the only marks of his generosity; a wardrobe of the most gorgeous apparel, and a casket of the valuable jewels, were expensive, and indeed extravagant testimonies of his esteem.

C H A P. XVIII.

A trip to Paris. Fanny's attractive power at the opera. Prince de C —— in love, with the declaration of his passion.

IN this superior situation we now view Fanny; more than ever the envy of women, more than ever the object of men's desire. The first, who never spoke favourably of her, were so convinced of her taste and beauty, that

every novelty in her dress was critically, was fervilely followed, not only by women in a middling station, but by those in the most elevated. If she wore a plaid ribbon, plaid ribbons were instantly the fashion. If she cocked her hat before, and wore stays that hid not her snowy orbs, the women were all Amazons; and many exposed their want of charms (which might have been supposed) because Fanny set the fashion. Obedient to the word of command, down went their hats before, and up behind. Cock your hat before (again) — Still pliant to the dictate, unshoulder your robe, the word of command again obeyed. In short, Fanny is the only standard for the women's dress, whatever she wears is the law of fashion; her tyranny in mode is complete.

If

While she ruled with such despotic sway over the female world, her power was not less circumscribed over the male. It was a vice not to be acquainted with Fanny ; it was a crime not to toast her at every meal, at every sitting.

We are not to be surprized that malice and detraction should attack a character in such great repute, which, if we could suppose Fanny chaste, was as meritorious as that of any of her sex : but not so those, who endeavoured to render her odious in every circumstance of her conduct, who represented her debauched through inclination, not necessity ; avaricious, prodigal, inconsistent. Those who would make her breakfast off bank notes between bread and butter, must be little acquainted with the human heart to attribute to

her avarice. We see her avoiding excesses, perfectly attached to her benefactor; yet calumny rears its head, and pronounces her a lover of Bacchus, ready at Mercury's nod.

She had now an opportunity of improving herself in many things that render the women agreeable. A French master gave her a complete insight into that language in a few months, and by her own reading and conversation she soon made herself understood in it. She had from her infancy some knowledge of music, and a taste for Italian put her into the way of advancing herself in both.

A trip to Paris is proposed by the knight, and much approved of by Fanny. But as Sir Richard's affairs demand his attendance here some time, it is agreed that Fanny shall set out first:
accordingly

accordingly a post-chaise, and a pair of Sir Richard's horses, are prepared for carrying her to Dover.

We find nothing uncommon that attended her in her journey to that port, without it was the surprize of the people upon the road, testified at seeing so handsome a lady of quality, as they took her to be.

A voyage by sea, short as this was, terrified Fanny, who had never been upon that element, except from Whitehall to Vauxhall, or in a party of pleasure to Richmond. However, she had more resolution than a lady who had travelled from London upon the same errand, but who was so affected at the sight of the sea, that she returned the same day she came, without thinking any more of France, or her jaunt to Paris.

Fanny

Fanny arrived at Calais, without any other inconvenience than being a little sea-sick. Monsieur Grandfire prepared an elegant supper for her, and she reposed herself that night at his house. The next day she set out in a post-chaise, which she hired of her host, and for which she gave three Louis d'ors, besides horses, which she paid for upon the road.

Her ignorance of the French money exposed her to many impositions upon the road, and particularly with the postilions, who made her pay near double the fixed prices: every post with her was a poste royale, or double post; and the sanctity of these whip smackers, who never passed by a cross, some hundreds of which there are between Calais and Paris, without taking off
their

their hats with the greatest reverence, prevented her suspecting their honesty.

Upon her arrival at Paris she was soon accommodated with an elegant apartment in the Fauxbourg St. Germain. The first night she appeared at the opera, the whole attention of the audience was taken up with her, more than with the performance, though a new piece. The theatre resounded with, ‘*Qui est cette belle étrangère? c’est une Angloise, mais la plus jolie que j’ai jamais vue.*’ The prince de C——, who quitted his box to come into hers, fixed his eyes upon her for the whole evening.

Whilst she was thus the only object of the men’s attention, she was the only object of the women’s exclamation. — ‘*Mais je ne vois*

‘vois pas qu’elle est si belle,’ says an old lady resembling Alecto. ‘Bien loin de ça,’ continues another equally amiable. ‘C’est une grosse Dondene—
 ‘C’est une pauvre Angloise, qui ne
 ‘sçait pas s’habiller — elle n’a pas mis
 ‘du rouge.’

The singers and dancers shared no part of the polite audience’s attention, but Fanny, praised and condemned, engrossed it all. She found upon her toilet the next morning the following billet.

‘L’ange Angloise, qui se trouve sur
 ‘notre horizon, est suppliée par un
 ‘mortel tout éperdu, de luy permet-
 ‘tre d’offrir l’encens de son amour
 ‘sur son autel.’

She had scarce run over the billet when, without enquiring whether she

was visible, the prince de C—— entered, and in a truly Versaillesian style, told her, ‘ When Venus eclipses all the
‘ other planets, it is in vain for her to
‘ endeavour being invisible in so fine an
‘ ether.’ A clear day gave poignancy to the compliment, which, though it might be exaggerated, was not lost upon Fanny; she entered into the delicacy of the sentiment, which in French was one of the prettiest apologies that could perhaps be made for the intrusion.

She began to have some apprehensions, from this familiar introduction, that she was already known, but his conversation soon convinced her of the mistake. He insisted upon her going that day to Versailles, and seeing the Chateau, when he would introduce her to the ladies of the court. After
some

some opposition she at length consented. Beginning to dress, she imagined he would retire from the bed-chamber; but instead of that he examined her toilet, prepared the combs and brushes, hunted about for her rouge, and not finding it, enquired what was become of it? She answered, she used none. ‘ Mon Dieu ! (he replied) ‘ comment, madame, est ce que ‘ vous ne vous servez pas de rouge ? c’est ‘ vrai que vous avez une couleur de rose, ‘ mais il faut absolument en mettre, si ‘ vous voudriez bien paroître à la cour.’ Having said this he immediately sent for some, and notwithstanding all her remonstrances, put it on her himself, till he made her cheeks as red as a pomegranate.

When she looked in the glass, she was terrified at the sight, and faint would

would have rubbed it off, but he would not let her. ‘ In my opinion (said she) paint was meant as an addition, to give those charms of complexion which nature had denied; but to make ourselves uglier than we really are, by art, is the utmost pitch of folly.’ ‘ Pshaw! pshaw!’ replied the prince, ‘ those are notions that may be thought sound logic in London, where reason has more sway than fashion, but in Paris nature is quite out of the question; it signifies nothing, if a thing is ever so out of the way, if it is the taste, every one must follow it that will be polite.’

C H A P. XIX.

A journey to Versailles. Observations upon French courtiers, French poverty and French pride. Fanny's obliged to quit France, and return to England.

SHE was much astonished to find a person of such good sense as the prince so blinded by custom, and readily concluded, that if a man of his parts could be thus biaſſed by prejudice, thoſe of the ſame nation, of inferior capacities, muſt be the moſt deſpicable wretches in the creation. With this great opinion of the French ſhe ſet out for Verſailles, where they arrived at the time of the *grand appartement*. All eyes were in a minute upon Fanny: ſhe was no leſs attentive to the many objects that ſurrounded

rounded her. They were all in masquerade to her, even if she had before known them, for not only the women were painted, but the very men. The fops and petit-maitres wore patches and rouge. After she had been presented to some of *la premiere noblesse*, as an English lady of fashion, she enquired of the prince concerning many of those who surrounded her. A gentleman with a red feather first attracted her observation — she asked who he was, taking him for some foreign ambassador. The prince replied, he was a Chevalier de St. Louis. ‘A man of great fortune, I dare say,’ continued Fanny. ‘No,’ answered the prince, ‘I believe he has nothing more than his pension.’ ‘What might that be,’ she then asked—‘Three hundred livres a year,’ replied he—‘And is that all he has to

‘live upon?’ said Fanny—‘is he of no
 ‘business?’ ‘Business!’ replied the prince
 with amazement — ‘Do you think
 ‘he would degrade himself!—no, no,
 ‘he would be of no business, without
 ‘he were one of the bottle-blowers.’
 Fanny did not comprehend his mean-
 ing, and told him, ‘she did not ima-
 ‘gine he would be of so mean a
 ‘profession as a workman at a glass-
 ‘house, but thought he might be a
 ‘merchant, or negociant.’ ‘Madam,’
 said he, ‘you mistake the thing quite,
 ‘there is nothing ignoble in working
 ‘in a glass-house, but to be a mer-
 ‘chant is an absolute disgrace.’

She could not then divine the mys-
 tery, but was afterwards informed,
 that custom authorized this judicious
 maxim. She next enquired of the
 prince, the name of a lady dressed in
 a sumptuous

a sumptuous suit of cloaths, and very rich jewels. He told her, ‘ it was ‘ Mademoiselle de ——, who, in spite ‘ of all her relations could do, would ‘ not be confined to a nunnery; which ‘ was the method of getting rid of ‘ younger daughters. That indeed a ‘ very rich match had been offered ‘ her from one of the Fermiers-gene- ‘ raux, worth three millions of livres; ‘ but that her father, who was of the ‘ best blood in France, had, with truly ‘ honourable indignation, refused to ‘ debase his family by such an alliance. ‘ And as his daughter would not ‘ retire to a convent, he had laid out ‘ all the money which he had destined ‘ for placing her there for life (which ‘ was her only portion) in cloaths and ‘ jewels; and that the chevalier de St. ‘ Louis, whom they had been just

P 3

‘ talking

‘ talking of, was pitched upon for her
‘ intended husband.’

Fanny could not help testifying her surprize at such a noble beggar’s wedding ; and the more so, as the prince informed her, that the lady’s father, notwithstanding his great descent, had not interest enough to procure a subaltern commission in the army, or any post equivalent.

At her return from Versailles, after two days sojourning at the prince’s, she found a letter from Sir Richard, which acquainted her with his having dispatched his business, and intending to set out in a few days for Paris.

This news, however agreeable it might be to her in one respect, gave
her

her some concern, on account of her new acquaintance with the prince, and the apparent impracticability of breaking it off. Hitherto he had behaved with the greatest politeness, and had never attempted to demonstrate the transports of his passion further than upon the cheek; but she nevertheless imagined he had other designs, as he had been at great expence in attending her at all public places, in giving several sumptuous *repas* upon her account, and had presented her with his picture set in diamonds in a bracelet.

Had she been acquainted with the genius of the French *amans*, her apprehensions would have soon been appeased. Had she known that the highest summit of a petit-maitre's passion, ambition and vanity, is being
seen

seen with a fine woman in a public place ; toasting her, dangling after her, making her presents, and treating her : all the return he expects, is now and then to kiss her cheek ; an ogle, or at most a squeeze by the hand. Such encouragement as this is sufficient to keep his flame alive for years.

She should have looked upon the prince's acquaintance as a means of being introduced into the best company, conducted to all the *spectacles*, regaled in an elegant manner, all for the sake of her conversation.

Upon the receipt of Sir Richard's letter, she sent word to all her new acquaintance, that she was going a little way out of town, in order to avoid being enticed into any party at the arrival

rival of Sir Richard. The prince was obliged to follow the court to Fontainebleau, where she promised to meet him the beginning of the ensuing week; so that she was rid of him 'till the time of her promise came. The coast being clear of the prince, she was pestered with coxcombs and petit-maitres, who had no further ambition or desire, than being upon 'les
' lices des amans honorables de l'ange
' Angloise.

Amongst a groupe of near a hundred of these very unseasonable butterflies, upwards of threescore were chevaliers de St. Louis; all of noble families, without one penny of inheritance. Many of them rose at six in the morning to have their hair dressed fit for a ball, in order to go to the coffee-house; there caper, sing and babille

bille 'till dinner time ; when, instead of following the mechanical way of eating, they would take a walk in the *Thuilleries* or the *Palace-royal* ; from thence to the *Caffé*, and from the *Caffé* back again, 'till the play or opera was over, where they were to shew themselves — for nothing — in every sense of the word. But, if they could muster among them enough to pay a violin or two, they always gave Fanny a serenade. Thus nobly ridiculous, and honourably trifling, do these genteel reptiles live — or rather starve !

The day of Fanny's appointment with the prince elapsed, without her going to Fontainbleau. The next he arrived at Paris in a post-chaise, with six postilions, fearing some accident had happened to her. He immediately waited upon her, and with all
the

the eloquence he was master of, at length prevailed upon her to return with him.

This condescension cost Fanny the liberty of staying in France ; for the king taking notice of her at the *chasse*, and enquiring of the prince who that belle Angloise was he had brought there ; which Madame de Pompadour overhearing, this favourite had influence enough to represent Fanny as a dangerous person ; and she was ordered to retire out of France in a week, and herself and servants from Paris in forty-eight hours.

Though this extraordinary step, excited by Madame de Pompadour's jealousy, may be imagined beyond the bounds of reason ; if she considered, and the reader remembers, how unexpectedly

pectedly Madame de Maintenon got into the favour of Lewis XIV. and how Madame de Montespan's tenderness for that lady was the first means of her elevation, it is not surprizing, that a woman who reigns with such despotic sway in France should remove any competitor for power, however small her pretensions might be.

Fanny returned the next day to Paris, and immediately packed up her baggage, and set out upon her return to England. She took care not to be disappointed of her breakfast and afternoon regale, and indeed of every other meal, by providing the necessary provisions for her journey at Paris.

As she had expected the arrival of Sir Richard upwards of a fortnight, she imagined she should meet him
upon

upon the road ; which occasioned her enquiring at every post-house for such a traveller ; but she heard nothing of him 'till she came to Boulogne, where he had been upwards of three weeks without going to bed. Mr. Blunt, at the Red Lion, had already disposed of half his stock in trade, upon very profitable terms, to Sir Richard, the celebrated captain Pl—st—w, L——d, and some other English refugees.

Upon Fanny's enquiring the reason of his delaying meeting her at Paris, he answered, as well as the hiccough would let him, ' By G—d, there is
' no better wine in all France than
' what Blunt has--here, fill a bumper :
' and what the devil must I go as far as
' Paris for ?—it is only losing time—a
' man may drink half a hoghead in the
' while.'

Q

After

After Fanny had stayed with them some time, as the presence of a woman generally impedes the rapid progress of the bottle, captain Pl—st—w favoured the company with the following narration of his uncommon exploits.

C H A P. XX.

Containing the adventures of the famous captain Pl—st—w.

‘ **I**N the first setting out in life I was
‘ destined for maritime service. My
‘ father, who was a gentleman of a
‘ small fortune in the west of England,
‘ had made friends to procure me the
‘ King’s letter for a man of war; but
‘ as my greatest ambition was to appear the polite man, and the sea generally

‘ nerally giving a rusticity to behavi-
‘ our, which the best company can
‘ scarce re-furbish, I was obstinately
‘ bent upon not accepting this pro-
‘ posal. Though my father had suf-
‘ ficient friends at the Admiralty to
‘ have obtained this favour, he had
‘ none who could crown my hopes
‘ by procuring a commission in the ar-
‘ my. However, an uncle dying about
‘ this time, and leaving me a legacy,
‘ I purchased with it an ensigncy in a
‘ marching regiment.

‘ I was soon ordered to quarters ;
‘ when I gave ample testimony of my
‘ gentility and genius for military af-
‘ fairs. I made an attack upon every
‘ pretty girl in the town ; took some
‘ by surprize, and others by capitula-
‘ tion. I stormed every drinking
‘ house at four in the morning, and

Q 2

‘ where

‘ where the garrison was obstinate,
‘ made the escalade, and carried the
‘ liquor sword in hand. So great was
‘ my martial skill and valour this way,
‘ that if I had not soon changed quar-
‘ ters, the complaints of the inhabi-
‘ tants would have went near to have
‘ broke me.

‘ I was now eighteen, tall, well
‘ made, and handsome ; fluent in
‘ speech, and impudent in deport-
‘ ment: add to this, I was an officer, and
‘ had a good taste for dress. No won-
‘ der the women were all mad after
‘ me in every country town I came.
‘ Captain Pl--st--w had kissed them—
‘ they were sure they were pretty. At
‘ Worcester, a young lady, with eight
‘ thousand pounds in her own posses-
‘ sion, saw as many charms in my
‘ person, and could not resist them.
‘ She

' She ogled me—she wrote to me—I
' answered her—I married her.

' After enjoyment, I could see no
' other endearment than her fortune.
' I possessed myself of it, and quitted
' my quarters. I came to London,
' hired an elegant house, purchased
' costly furniture, and set up a genteel
' equipage. I dressed better than any
' man in town, and kept as good com-
' pany. To keep *good company* and
' be ruined, with a young man, are
' almost synonymous terms. Two
' months frequenting Wh—e's carried
' off my wife's fortune, and the sale of
' my commission. A few Levants
' at the chocolate-house proscribed
' me. Here terminated my present
' glory.

' I made the most of my effects,
' left my creditors an empty house

‘ to contemplate, and set out for Bris-
‘ tol ; where I insinuated myself into
‘ the good graces of Mr. —, with
‘ whom I still passed for an officer ;
‘ and giving a very exact detail of the
‘ gentlemen of my late corps, the de-
‘ ception failed not to succeed, and I
‘ had the address to gain credit for any
‘ reasonable sum. I failed not to
‘ make use of this, and for the first
‘ time drew only for two hundred
‘ pounds ; which bill being paid at
‘ sight, I drew for five hundred : the
‘ gentleman still did honour to my
‘ draught ; and had not my modera-
‘ tion been entirely annihilated by Mr.
‘ —’s generosity, I might have conti-
‘ nued drawing for any reasonable
‘ sum. Soon after I paid my addresses
‘ to a rich merchant’s daughter at Li-
‘ verpool, whose father was dead, and
‘ had left her fortune in the hands of
‘ trustees

‘ trustees ’till she was of age ; one
‘ of whom, she then lived with.
‘ This gentleman approved my suit ;
‘ but, before he would sign any writ-
‘ ings, he desired me to realize some
‘ of my protestations. This induced
‘ me to draw upon my Bristol friend
‘ for five thousand pounds. So great
‘ a bill proved its own abortion ; for
‘ even if the gentleman had had cash
‘ enough to answer it, which he had
‘ not, such a capital sum could not
‘ fail giving him some alarm ; and the
‘ bill returned with the post, unex-
‘ cepted.

‘ Having in the interim made great
‘ advances towards subduing my mis-
‘ tress’s heart, I went myself as soon
‘ as the post came to receive my let-
‘ ters ; so that I gained intelligence of
‘ the return of my bill fourteen hours
‘ before

‘ before the trustee, who had not his
‘ letters delivered ’till next morning.
‘ I now perceived there was but a last
‘ resource to succeed.

‘ I went immediately to Miss Isa-
‘ bella L—, who had appointed that
‘ evening for an interview ; and with
‘ the utmost concern told her, I had
‘ received a letter from London, which
‘ acquainted me with my uncle’s be-
‘ ing at the point of death, and his
‘ desire of seeing his nephew before
‘ he departed this life : adding, my
‘ uncle and I had been at some little
‘ variance a good while ; and that I
‘ flattered myself, if I could arrive
‘ time enough in town to be recon-
‘ ciled to him, I should have suffi-
‘ cient influence over him to get rein-
‘ stated in his will, in lieu of my bro-
‘ ther, who since the breach had sup-
‘ plied

‘plied the place. That therefore I
‘proposed setting out that evening;
‘and yet to think of leaving my dear
‘Isabella, struck far deeper to my
‘heart, than the loss of the fortune I
‘might obtain. That I was sensible,
‘to propose to her a journey before
‘we were rendered man and wife,
‘might create in her some suspicion
‘of my intentions; that it would be
‘impossible to get the ceremony per-
‘formed that evening; and that I
‘doubted not her guardian would op-
‘pose her intentions, even if they
‘were inclinable for such a journey;
‘that, therefore, if she had a mind
‘to prevent my being the most mi-
‘serable man alive, she must set out
‘with me in a post-chaise incog. that
‘evening, without the knowledge of
‘her trustee; and that to prevent
‘all fear on her side, we should be
‘married

‘ married the next morning at the first
‘ town we came to.

‘ However plausible this story, and
‘ however seriously and happily re-
‘ lated, she could not fail being
‘ shocked at the thoughts of so preci-
‘ pitate a journey, without the privacy
‘ of any of her friends. But so great
‘ was her attachment grown, that she
‘ could not reflect upon her being
‘ the imaginary cause of my losing so
‘ fair a prospect of being in my
‘ uncle’s will, without the utmost re-
‘ pugnance; and to be made a woman
‘ and a wife the next morning, was
‘ what she so much approved, that
‘ her inclinations soon surmounted her
‘ reason, and she agreed to set out be-
‘ tween two and three for London.

‘ With all imaginable privacy we
‘ got into a post-chaise, which set out
‘ at

‘ at the time appointed ; and her maid
‘ and my servant followed us an hour
‘ after, with her mistress’s and my
‘ baggage.

‘ Agreeable to my promise I made
‘ a bride of her at the first town we
‘ came to, and we then continued our
‘ journey without any more precipi-
‘ tancy.

‘ As soon as the trustee was ac-
‘ quainted with the flight of the lady,
‘ he made enquiry all over the town, to
‘ be informed of what rout they had
‘ taken ; imagining, however, that it
‘ might be a frolick, as he expected to
‘ receive that day, by the return of the
‘ post, advice from his correspondent
‘ of the payment of my bill ; but when
‘ he was informed that two post
‘ chaises set out that morning for Lon-
‘ don, and that Miss Isabella L——
‘ was

‘ was actually gone in one of them
 ‘ with me, he began to be greatly stag-
 ‘ gered in his opinion ; the receipt of
 ‘ the letters from Bristol soon fixed it,
 ‘ and determined him to set out im-
 ‘ mediately in pursuit of the lady.

‘ He overtook us at an inn upon the
 ‘ road ; and after saluting us, desired
 ‘ to know whither we were going. I
 ‘ answered, to London. That I might
 ‘ do, he replied, but his ward must
 ‘ return with him, for that I was an
 ‘ impostor, shewing the letter he had
 ‘ received from my friend at Bristol.

‘ The lady seemed greatly surprized
 ‘ at this ; whilst I insisted upon it,
 ‘ somebody had answered that letter in
 ‘ his name to prejudice me in the
 ‘ lady’s favour. He replied, that such
 ‘ sub-

‘ subterfuges were too glaring to im-
‘ pose on him, and that the lady should
‘ not step an inch further with me.

‘ Our chaise being ready at the inn-
‘ door at this time, we came out, and
‘ I addressed my wife in these terms,
“ Madam, do you chuse to go with
“ me, who am your lawful husband,
“ or return with that old gentleman?”
‘ She stretching out her hand, I
‘ helped her in, and left her guardian
‘ and the rest of the spectators in the
‘ greatest consternation.

C H A P. XXI.

Continuation of the memoirs of Capt. Pl—st—w. He comes to London. Cuts a figure, and lives happy with his wife till she is of age. He sends her into Yorkshire. Turns methodist; and marries again.

‘ **W**E immediately repaired to
 ‘ London, and by means of
 ‘ propagating my marriage with an
 ‘ heiress (as she really was) of 8000 l.
 ‘ fortune, I got as much credit as I
 ‘ wanted, though I was obliged to give
 ‘ 20 per cent. interest for ready money.
 ‘ By this means we lived in an elegant,
 ‘ nay, a luxurious manner, and to all
 ‘ appearance no couple was so happy
 ‘ as Capt. Pl—st—w and his wife.

‘ The

‘ The time of her being at age
‘ came, which was sixteen months af-
‘ ter our marriage; and I wrote to
‘ her trustee for all her papers; but he
‘ refused at first to deliver them; tho’
‘ finding I was resolute, he at length
‘ gave them, and I became possessed
‘ of all her fortune.

‘ But after the debts I had contracted
‘ since my marriage, and the ready-
‘ money borrowed, with interest, were
‘ paid, I had but three thousand pounds
‘ left, which I found would last but a
‘ short time, in keeping house, and liv-
‘ ing in the manner we did; upon
‘ which I told my wife the necessity
‘ there was of retiring into the coun-
‘ try and living frugally. She con-
‘ sented to it, and we accordingly set
‘ out for Yorkshire, where I boarded
‘ her for 20l. a year.

R 2

‘ With

‘ With the remainder of my wife’s
‘ fortune I returned to London, and
‘ gamed, whored, and drank till it
‘ was pretty near exhausted. I then
‘ thought it time to recruit, and re-
‘ collecting that in Berkshire there
‘ was an old methodist woman, who
‘ was said to have 1200l. I immedi-
‘ ately set out for the place: but find-
‘ ing she conversed with none but
‘ those of her own sect, I was ob-
‘ liged to become a convert, to get ac-
‘ cess to her ; and nobody pronounced,
“ We are all irretrievably damned,”
‘ better than myself. — In short, I was
‘ a staunch methodist.

‘ So young and handsome a profe-
‘ lyte was the admiration of all the
‘ congregation, particularly the female
‘ part ; and being taken notice of by
‘ the

‘ the old lady for my sanctity, I found
‘ means to get access, by presenting
‘ her with a new edition of Mr.
‘ Wesley’s sermons, which was so ac-
‘ ceptable to her, that she almost killed
‘ me with kindness and devotion.’
“ She had a thought (she said) that
“ Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Wesley
“ were the only two good men in the
“ world, but that she began now to
“ think there was a third — a young
“ saint, both in thought and deed.”

‘ After I had thus insinuated my-
‘ self into her good graces, I began to
‘ feel her pulse upon the score of ma-
‘ trimony. Nothing was ever so in-
‘ animate and frigid at first. — But
‘ when I began to talk of spiritual
‘ love, un sullied with my lustful
‘ thoughts, she gave ear to me; and
‘ was at length of opinion, that “ a
“ woman might enter into the state

“ of wedlock, upon those principles
“ only, without being irretrievably
“ damned, provided there were al-
“ ways separate beds.” ‘ I entirely
‘ acquiesced in whatever she said, and
‘ after about six months cooing with
‘ spiritual love, we agreed to take one
‘ another for better for worse.

‘ I left her as soon as I could possess
‘ myself of her money, telling her,
‘ she neither wanted gold, or a young
‘ fellow, to carry her to heaven; and
‘ as she had fixed her mind entirely
‘ upon spiritual things, it was doing
‘ her a great kindness to take tempta-
‘ tions out of her way.’

‘ To the metropolis I again re-
‘ turned, where I met with an old
‘ flame, and with her I took a lodging,
‘ and lived very snug for some time;
‘ but

‘ but my cash circulating too fast at
‘ the gaming table, I was obliged to
‘ have recourse to drawing upon several friends for money; but few
‘ of them answered my bills; and
‘ what little money I drained from
‘ them lasted me but a short time. I
‘ married six different wives in three
‘ months, whose fortunes put together made but two hundred pounds,
‘ and their ages three hundred years.

‘ I now got acquainted with one
‘ Str——d, who had found a comfortable means of livelyhood, by hiring
‘ houses, furnishing them upon credit,
‘ and disposing of the furniture. I
‘ engaged with him in his plan, which
‘ at first proved better than the wife-trade, for in less than six weeks we
‘ earned two thousand pounds.

‘ Our

‘ Our success, however, was of
 ‘ short duration, for soon after he was
 ‘ taken up for one of those frauds,
 ‘ which I thought a sufficient hint for
 ‘ me to decamp. Accordingly I came
 ‘ here, and have lived ever since upon
 ‘ the ready money I brought with
 ‘ me.’

C H A P. XXII.

Fanny's return to England. Her adventure upon the road with a country Squire. Her invitation to his house with Sir Richard, and their reception.

AS the time of Fanny's quitting France now approached, she prevailed upon Sir Richard to set out with her for England, after having laid in a plentiful stock of Blunt's
 best

best Burgundy and Champaign. They embarked at Boulogne, and a calm ensuing, they were three days before they arrived at Dover, where they at length debarked, and set out for a jaunt to Portsmouth, Fanny passing for the marchioness Lemantel, and Sir Richard for her brother.

Upon the confines of Hampshire they met with a country Squire, who conducted them to the best inn upon the road. The rustic, having informed himself of the imaginary dignity of Fanny, and her supposed brother, was ashamed of his former politeness, and begged pardon for the liberty he had taken of being their guide. Fanny informed him, that so far from having been guilty of any rudeness, the breach of politeness would be on her and her brother's side, if she did not take that opportunity

nity of returning him thanks for the obligation he had conferred upon them.

The Squire was quite charmed at such genteel behaviour, and could not in the fulness of his soul help testifying with something more than unpremeditated sighs, the impression that Fanny had made upon him. Thus did the Squire give tokens of his passion. ‘ Madam — my lady, I
‘ would now be understood to say — if
‘ you was not of such great qualities, I
‘ could find in me to tell your madam-
‘ ship, an’t please your ladyship, that
‘ you are a great deal much more hand-
‘ some than all the pictures and sta-
‘ tues I ever saw of Venice, — for all
‘ they say she was oncet a goddess, or
‘ angel, or some such thing ; — and
‘ then you talk better than any parrot,
‘ aye, a great deal better, though an it
‘ cost

‘ cost one five guineas to a French
‘ gentleman to teach it his language.’

Sir Richard and Fanny easily perceived the drift of his elaborate discourse, and therefore gave all imaginable encouragement to a further declaration — perceiving the nearer he advanced towards an absolute avowal, their mirth would be proportionably encreased: and in this expectation they accepted of an invitation to his house, which was a few miles distant from the main road.

The first thing that presented itself to their view, was the Squire’s sister milking the cows, in a coarse sackcloth apron, and linsy-woolsey gown.
‘ Wounds, sister (said the Squire) how
‘ often have I told you never to wear
‘ that gown but on churning-days —
‘ run this minute and put it off:—
‘ these are gentry greater than mayor

‘ ———

‘ —. Pray put on your church-going
‘ tabby, or your last new yard-wide
‘ stuff.’

Away run sister to put herself in order, whilst the Squire made many apologies for the dirtiness of his house. He carried them through the great hall, and entertained them with a genealogical history of all his canvaſs-ancestry, who were somewhat worse for the wear. His great grandfather’s great-grandfather was huntsman to the duke of Normandy, and was the first who set foot in England of all the Normans to conquer it. — He play’d so musically upon the French-horn, (some centuries before that instrument was invented) that (no wonder!) he subdued the natives with his music; — he fairly play’d them out of all their valour and military skill. The son of
this

this surprizing genius, who stood next to him, and had lost his belly and drapery in the wars of time, was famous for —— eating. At a corporation feast he eat the best part of two haunches of venison, three capons, the fat of two Westphalia hams, and two dozen of custards. He died of the morrow, and beef fell a farthing in the pound next market day.

The next in lineal descent, whose person was entirely defaced, though so fresh in the Squire's memory, was one of the handsomest men in the world, but unfortunately caught in bed with the knight of the shire's wife : he was killed in a duel. 'This son possessed all his virtues, and was deficient only in a nose, which the Squire intimated he had lost at a constitutional siege at Montpellier.

A perfect piece stood next of more recent manufacture ; for there was a chasm of a hundred years in the Squire's genealogical-tree, which it had in vain cost him some hundred pounds to supply. This compleat ancestor was his great grandfather, and was famous for nothing but the floridness of his complexion, which he still surprizingly retained, though the Squire hinted it cost him a bottle to give him a healthy look, every time the hall was painted.

Just as he had got thus far in his genealogy, his sister came running in with a syllabub, which he had ordered. ' Wounds, sister, (cried the Squire) you have put me quite out, — I had got no further than great-grandfather ; — but I'm glad you're
' come

‘ come with the syllabub : —— this
‘ same family affair makes one hugely
‘ dry—why don’t you give it to the
‘ lady?’ ‘ How ! (said the sister, in a
‘ loud whisper) is she a real lady?’ ‘ Ay,
‘ (returned the squire) and more—she
‘ is a march— march— ay, a mar-
‘ chantess—ay, that’s it. Please your
‘ marchantship, (then said the sister)
‘ would you like to have some of our
‘ syllabub—I milkt it myself an’t please
‘ your marchantship.’

Fanny could scarce refrain from laughing at the adulteration of her new title, and drank some syllabub to carry off her risible inclination. Sir Richard began to compliment the sister upon her wholesome look ; saying, he thought such signs of health were superior to all the forced delicate complexions.

‘ Ay, an’t please your graceship, (re-
S 2 ‘ plied

plied the sister) I never wash in nothing but puppy-dog water.' She was going on, but the Squire interrupted her, with saying he must resume the account of his family; but it being towards dusk, Sir Richard advised him to defer it 'till next day, as they might then have a more perfect view of his predecessors.

The next day the Squire compleated his genealogy, and Sir Richard and Fanny finished their visit, which they were already surfeited of. The Squire was far gone in love with the supposed marchioness; but she pretended not to understand his declarations: however, she gave him an invitation to town, which he accepted of; whither she returned, and took lodgings in Pall-mall.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIII.

Being the conclusive chapter: containing the author's reasons for not continuing his heroine's memoirs any further at present; and some important, or unimportant occurrences, according to the judgment of the reader.

WE have now brought Fanny back to London, and safely deposited her in Pallmall; where we shall take our leave of her for the present, for the following reasons. Sir Richard was still constant, and she was faithful. She lived at ease without immersing into any luxurious dissipations or expensive frolicks; and she was at the crisis of her happiness: her mind embellished by learning and experience; whilst her face retained all those

those charms which insured her conquest.

She had dismissed the greatest part of her retinue, retaining only one servant and two maids. Such prudence and œconomy induced the world to believe she was a wife, instead of a mistress; which was the reason of her being complimented with the title of lady.

A trifling circumstance in itself had near disunited this happy pair for ever. She had ordered the jeweller to make a locket, wherein she proposed putting some of her plaited hair, and presenting Sir Richard with it. She had wrote, 'Un me suffit,' for the device, which inscription lay upon her table, when a certain wit, who has already too much pestered the world with his
pro-

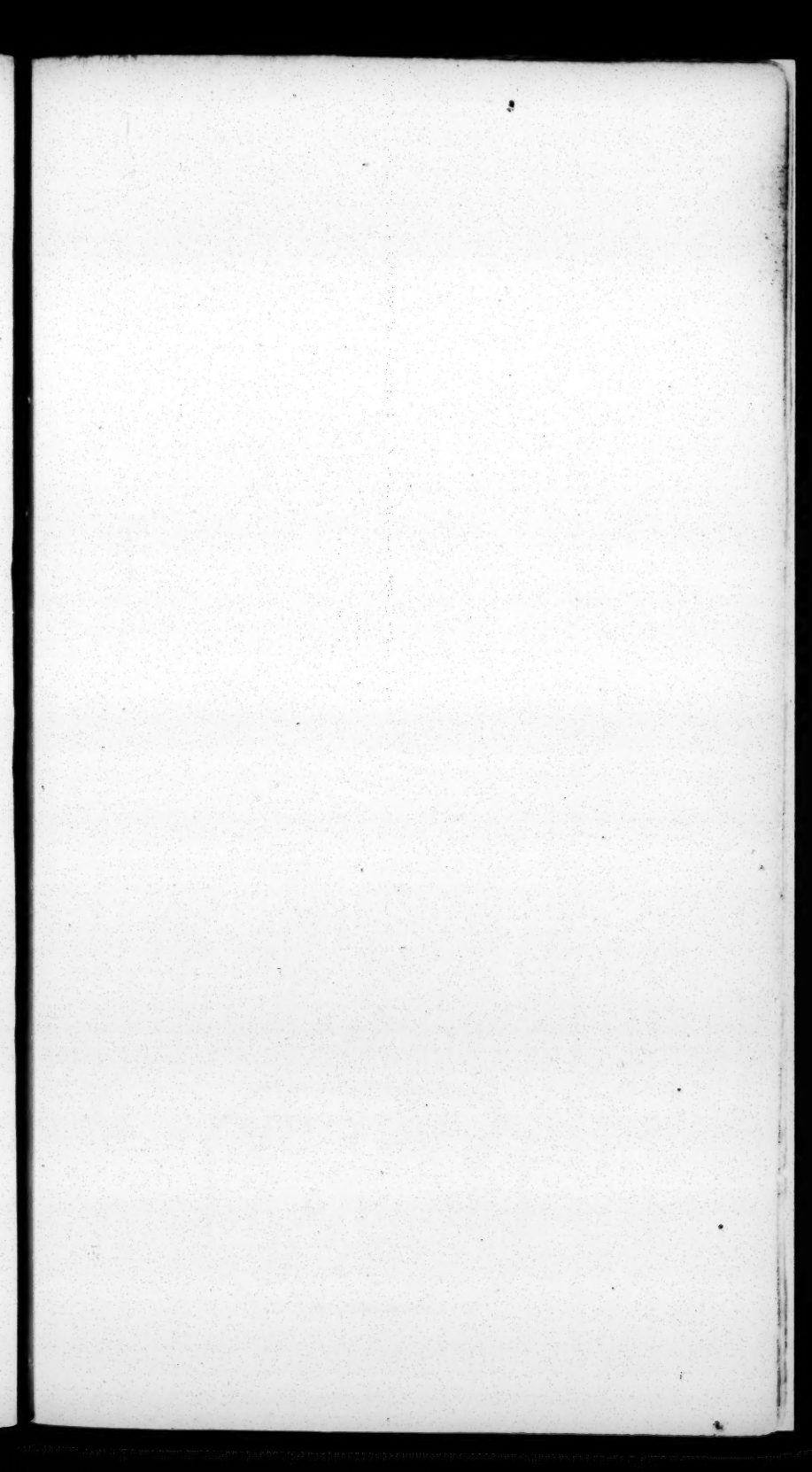
productions, came in, and for the sake of the joke, added to this device, 'à la fois.' She having no suspicion of the conceit, dispatched her servant with the note to her jeweller, who, accordingly enamelled all the words; and when he brought the locket home Sir Richard was with her, to whom she presented it. He read the inscription, 'Un me suffit à la fois,' and was extremely exasperated, imagining it to be an affront from her; and it was a considerable time before he could be reconciled. At length the wit renewed his visit, when she complaining of the accident that had affronted Sir Richard, he informed her of being the author, and begged of her to let him wait upon the knight, in order to reconcile the difference: he accordingly did; but Sir Richard was irritated at the genius, and properly retorted the conceit with an oaken towel.

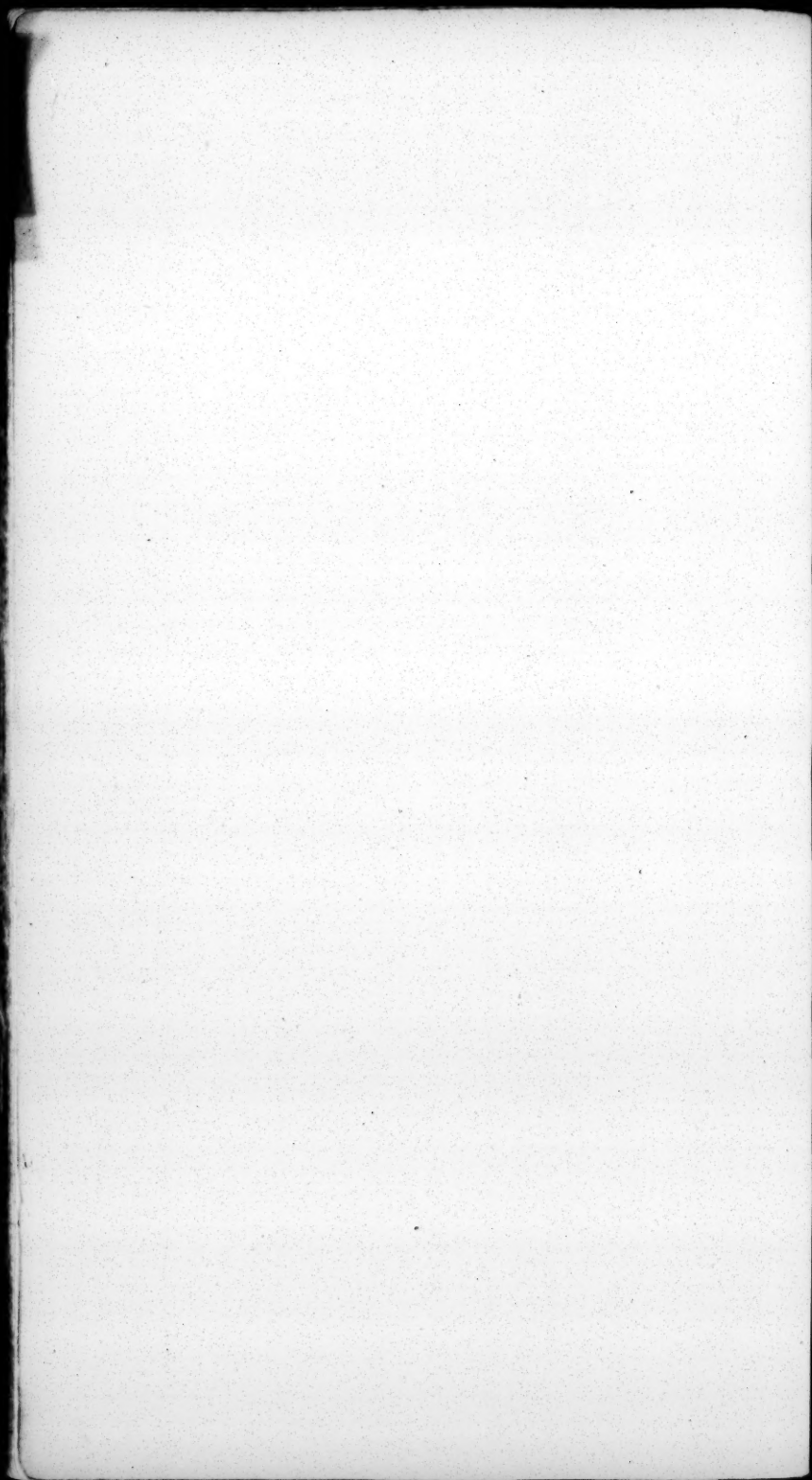
Sir

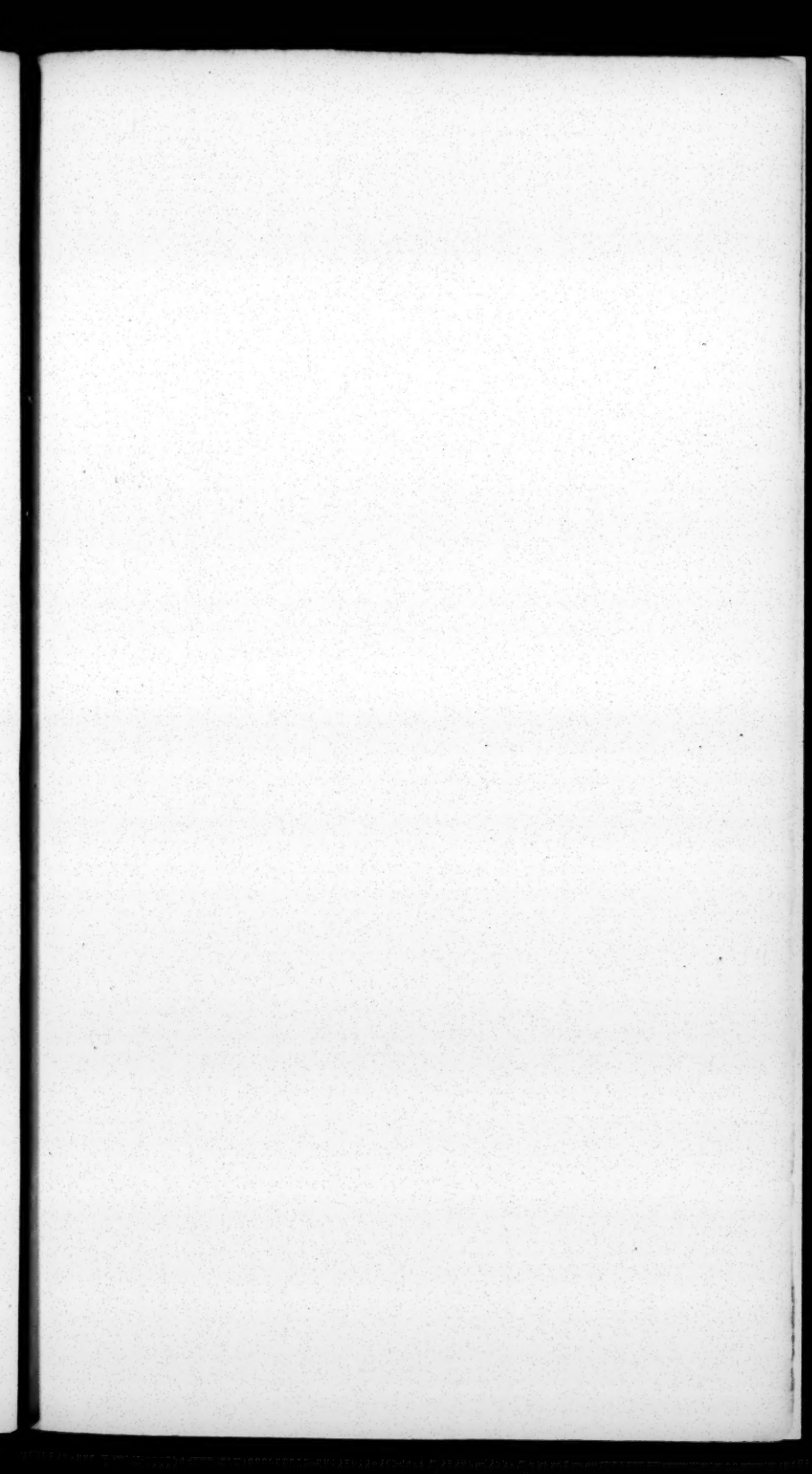
Sir Richard being convinced of Fanny's innocence in this circumstance, made her all the condescension that could be reasonably expected for the mistake; among others, he took her an elegant country house near Richmond, which he suitably furnished; he presented her with a new sedan chair, and a number of trinkets.

She now received the visits of women of character, and ladies of distinction did not scruple speaking to her they imitated. She was still the reigning toast; still the standard of female dress; and still the object of every man's desire.









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